- Josiah Cash - A NEW Coventr History of JAMAI FROM THEOARD O. RADE

EARLIEST ACCOUNTS.

TO THE

Taking of PORTO BELLO VICE-ADMIRAL VERNON.

In Thirteen LETTERS from a Gentleman to bis Friend.

CONTAINING,

I. The Author's Voyage to that Island; with an Account of feveral Curious Particulars which he met with in his Paffage.

Advantages, Manners of the People, &c. Expedition of Sir Anthony Shirley and Col. Jackson against them. Its Conquest by the English.

IV. The Enterprizes of the famous Buccaneers Bartholomew, Brafiliano, Lewis Scot,

and John Davis, who took St. Augustine, V. The Life and gallant Actions of the evermemorable Sir Henry Morgan, and his almost incredible Enterprizes and Successes against the Spaniards.

VI. Inflitution of the General Affembly, and other Curious Particulars.

VII. Abstract of all the Laws and Statutes in Force in Jamaica.

VIII. The first Affiento Contract. Enter-prizes of the Rebel Negroes. Dreadful Earthquake, French Invafions. Col, Lillingstone's Expedition against Hispaniola. The Scots Settlement at Darien. Gallant Actions and Death of Admiral Bembow, &c.

II. A Description of Jamaica; its Natural IX. Port-Royal burnt to the Ground. A dreadful Hurricane. Of Blackbeard, a famous Pyrate. Character and Importance of the Mosqueto Indians. Formidable Power of the Rebel Negroes.

X. The Rebels submit to Terms. Admiral Vernon's Success against Porte-Belle.

XI, Of the Government, Ecclefiaftical, Civil and Military, of Jamaica. Customs of the Inhabitants. The Sacrifices, Libations, Exercises, and Diversions of the Negroes, &c.

XII. Of the Products of Jamaica; of its Trees, Plants, Birds, Beafts, Fish, In-

XIII. Its Trade and Commerce. Its Importance to Great Britain. Number of its People-Money it returns to Great Britain. Directions to new Settlers, in relation to their Healths, Ge.

In which are briefly interspersed,

The Characters of its Governors and Lieutenant-Governors; wiz.

Colonel D'Oyley. Major Sedgewick. Colonel Brayne. Lord Windsor. Sir Tho. Moddiford. Sir Tho. Lynch.

Lord Vaughan. Earl of Carlifle, Sir Henry Morgan, Colonel Molefworth. Duke of Albemarle, Earl of Inchiquin.

General Selwyn.

Sir William Beefton. Sir Nicolas Lawes. Duke of Portland. Peter Beckford, Esq; Major Gen. Hunter.

Earlof Peterborough.

John Ayscough, Esq;

Colonel Handasyde.

John Gregory, Esq; Ld. Arch. Hamilton. H. Cunningham, Efg;

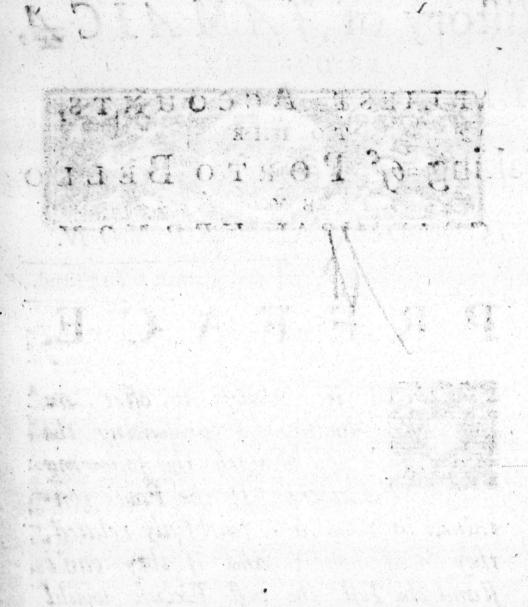
And the present Governor, EDWARD TRELAWNEY, Esq.

With Two Maps, one of that Island, and the other of the circumjacent Islands and Territories belonging to France, Spain, &c.

The SECOND EDITION.

LONDO

Printed for J. Hopoes, at the Looking-glass on London-bridge. 1740.





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PREFACE.

Apology for presenting the Publick with the following Letters: If the Fasts con-

tained in them are faithfully related, they need none; and if they can't stand the Test, the best Excuse would

be insufficient.

The Reader will observe the principal Matters laid together in an easy familiar way. And as many of the Facts are in themselves extraordinary, 'tis presumed they will give equal Surprize and Delight.

To make the following Work as complete as possible, an Abstract is made of A 2

the most considerable Statutes now in force in that Island, which will at once shew after what manner our distant Countrymen are governed, and the Difference betwixt theirs and the British Constitution.

Nothing of this kind ever appeared before, except a very few incorrect Abstracts, which are huddled together in the general Accounts of the West-Indies: And as I had such an Opportunity of being acquainted with the Island, and the remarkable Occurrences which have bappened in it, some Gentlemen, whose Judgment I justly esteem, put me on attempting the writing its History.

The Work is left to the Judgment of the Publick; nor shall the Author pretend to give it any other Recommendation, than the Fidelity with which he

bas written it.

ANEW

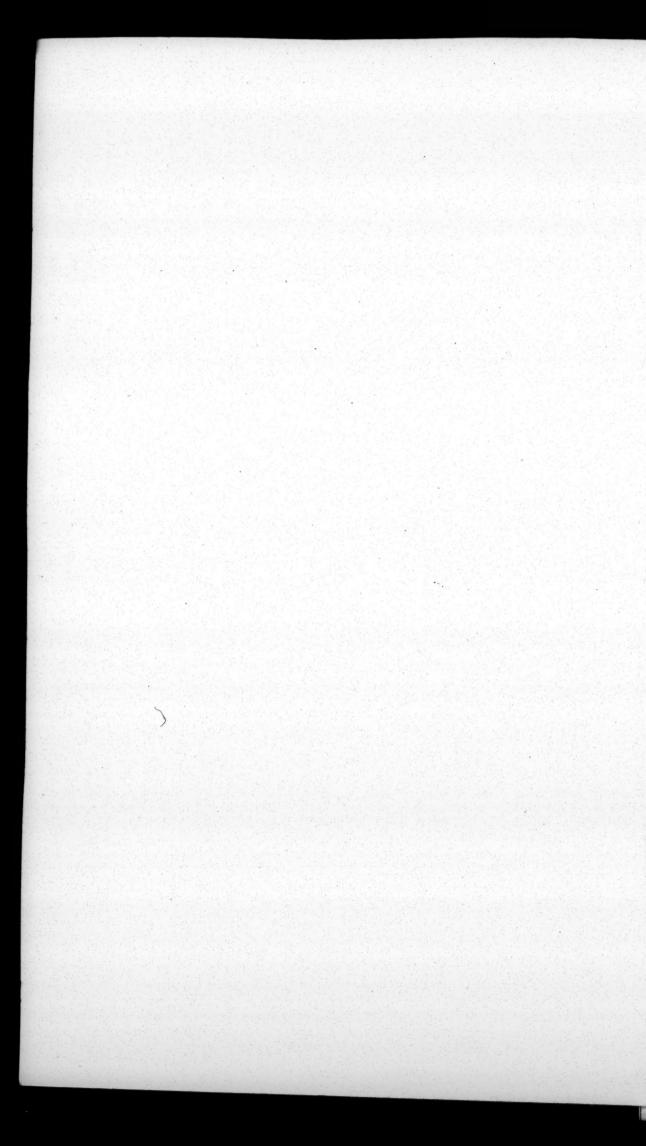


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HISTORY

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JAMAICA.

In Thirteen Letters from a Gentleman in that Mand to his Friend in London.

LETTER 1.

SIR,



GOOD Ship and easy Gales have at last brought me to this Part of the new World: New indeed in regard of ours, for here I find every thing altered;

and, amidst all the Variety which crouds upon my Sight, scarce see a Face that resembles the gay Bloom of a Briton. The People seem all sickly, their Complection is muddy, their Colour wan, and their Bodies meagre; they look like so many Corpses, and their Dress resembles a Shroud; however, they are

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frank and good-humour'd, and make the best of Life they can. If Death is more busy in this Place than in many others, his Approach is no-where received with a greater Unconcernedness: They live well, enjoy their Friend, drink heartily, make Money, and are quite careless of Futurity. But I'll take another Opportunity to draw their Character, when Time shall increase my Knowledge, and my Acquaintance with them be-

comes more general.

Our Voyage was pleasant; fair Weather and good Winds made every Hardship easy. The Captain is a Man of Sense; a certain Frankness appears in his Temper, which never fails to gain Esteem; he has none of those ill-natur'd surly Airs, which are too oft the Foible of those of his Profession; the very Servants were easy under his Command, and scarce a Murmur appeared. When the Sailors used them amiss, they had Access to complain, and were sure of Redress; a better Man I never faw, an easy Friend, an agreeable Companion, of a lively Wit, and penetrating Genius, good without Oftentation, and just without Severity. And here likewise, I cannot forbear to do Justice to another Character; the Surgeon is a young Gentleman of excellent Parts, and great Goodnature, and has all along applied himself to the different Circumstances of the Sick with furprifing Art and Patience, sympathized with their

their Pains, attended them closely, and used

every proper Mean for their Recovery.

There were several Gentlemen Passengers, who understood Men and Manners persectly well: With such I could not miss to be happy; the Hours slipt easily away, every Day was agreeable, and I did not mind a tedious

Voyage.

We had Diversions besides Conversation, lived well, but not high, might command a Glass when we would, and use the same Freedom as if ashore. After a few Weeks failing, we got into the warm Latitudes, and foon were diverted with many new and surprising Sights in the watry World, Fishes flying, Dolphins playing, and the huge Grampus's rolling their unweildy Trunks, which could not miss to furnish out an agreeable Amusement. The Sailors prepared their small Harpoons, and foon killed a Dolphin. I was curious to view a Creature I had heard fuch Fables about: It measured full four Foot, was gross about the Middle, the Belly of a fine yellow Colour, the Back greenish, and, in other respects, not unlike a large Salmon, but distinguished by a Hollow or Sinking-in betwixt the Snout and Top of the Head. It is very delicious Eating when right-prepared, fat, and tastes much like the Turbot. The slying Fish has two long Fins, which serve instead of Wings; 'tis about the Bigness of a Herring, and of the same Shape. These Fisheskeep together B 2

Numbers to avoid the Bonetta and Dolphin, which prey upon them; they keep no longer above Water than their Wings or Fins are wet, and for this Reason frequently fall on the Deck of Ships, and become an easy Prey to the Sailors, who either eat them, or use them as Bait to catch the Dolphin and Bonetta. The Bonetta I take to be a Species of the Cod; for I could perceive little Difference either in the Shape or Taste; its Skin is not indeed of such a clear silver Colour, nor is it of such a small Size, but in every thing else they are alike.

We had scarce got to the Latitude of thirty Degrees, when we were furprised with a Sight of that extraordinary Meteor often feen at Sea, very dangerous to Ships, and whatever happens in its way, called the Water-spout. The first Appearance of it is in Form of a deep Cloud, whose upper Part is white, the lower black; from the lower Part hangs, or rather falls, what is properly called the Spout, refembling a conical Tube, biggest above; under this Tube is always a great Boiling and Flying up of the Water, as in a Jet-d'Eau; for some Yards above the Surface of the Sea, the Water stands as a Column, from the Extremity whereof it spreads, and goes off as in a kind of Smoke; frequently the Cone descends so low as to touch the Middle of this Column, and continues for some time contiguous to it, the now and then it only points at some Distance, either downright or aslant.

It is often scarce distinguishable whether the Cone or Column appear first, tho' generally the Boiling or Flying up of the Water has the Priority; and this immediately precedes its being formed into a Column. For the most part, the Cone does not appear hollow till towards the End, when the Sea-water is thrown violently up the Middle of it, as Smoke up a Chimney. Soon after this Canal disappears, and the Boiling up of the Water continues some time afterwards, and even till the Spout forms itself, and appears anew, which it will do, on Occasions, several times in a Quarter of an Hour,

The real Cause of an Appearance so uncommon, and so dangerous to approach, is as yet but little known, tho' it is thought with a good Degree of Probability, that they are a Gyration or Whirling of Clouds, impelled by contrary Winds meeting in a Point or Centre, and falling down in a great Tube, somewhat like Archimedes's spiral Screw, where the greatest Condensation and Gravitation is by its working whirling Motion, absorbing and raising the Water with a prodigious Force.

The Dissolution of these Spouts may be ascribed to the Weight of the great Quantity of Water they generally take up, which impedes the Rapidity of their Motion, where-

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on their Force and even Existence depends. When they break, they overwhelm whatever is underneath. To prevent the ill Consequences of this, Seamen, when near, endeavour to disturb and break them by Noises, and the firing of great Guns, which puts the cirjacent Air into a Tremor and Motion different to, and opposite in some fort to that

whereby they are impelled.

I purposely omit the little Gaieties among the Sailors when we reached the Tropic, too trisling for Notice, and too coarse to be repeated; we judged ourselves at this time many hundred Leagues distant from any Shore, and yet were surrounded on alk hands by a vast Multitude of Birds. I am told, they are always seen in this Latitude; but where they nest, what their Name, or whence they come, is yet (for aught I know) a Secret; they are pure white, have long Necks and Bills, and are about the Bigness of a Solon Goose.

Soon after we got the Trade Winds, which carried us with an easy Quickness, at the rate of two Leagues, or six Knots, an Hour, These Winds blow constantly between the Tropics from East to West, occasioned by the Sun's daily Progress round that Part of the Globe, and by his Heat rarefying one Part of the Air, while the cooler and heavier presses after. We had a double Advantage; for they not only served to make our Voyage the more pleasant and easy, but likewise to

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Letter 1. of JAMAICA. 7

fan us; for by this time the Heat was become almost insupportable. Tis impossible
to represent the kind Effects of these friendly
Gales, or how much they refreshed and relieved us; without this kind Contrivance of
indulgent Nature, the warm sultry Regions would be nothing but one continued
Desart.

And here it may not be improper to explain more at large the Reasons of this curious Phænomenon, which is of such vast Advantage to Mankind; and I can do it no better, than in the Words of the ingenious Halley.

Wind is defined to be the Stream or Current of the Air; and where such Current is perpetual and fixed in its Course, 'tis necessary, that it proceed from permanent unintermitting Causes: Wherefore some have been inclined to propose the diurnal Rotation of the Earth upon its Axis, by which, as the Globe turns Eastward, the loose and fluid Particles of the Air, being so exceeding light, are left behind; fo that, in respect of the Earth's Surface, that moves Westward, and becomes a con-stant Easterly Wind. This Opinion seems confirm'd, because these Winds are found only near the Equinoctial, in those Parallels of Latitude where the diurnal Motion is swiftest; but the constant Calms in the Atlantic Sea, near the Equator, the Westerly Winds near the Coast of Guiney, and the periodical Westerly Monsoons, under the Equator in the Indian B 4

ciency of this Hypothesis.

Besides, the Air being kept to the Earth by the Principle of Gravity, would, in time, acquire the same Degree of Velocity that the Earth's Surface moves with, as well in respect of the diurnal Rotation, as of the annual about the Sun, which is about thirty times swifter.

It remains therefore to substitute some other Cause, capable of producing a like constant Effect, not liable to the same Objections, but agreeable to the known Properties of the Elements of Air and Water, and the Laws of the Motion of sluid Bodies: Such a one is the Action of the Sun's Beams upon the Air and Water, as he passes every Day over the Oceans, considered together with the Nature of the Soil, and Situation of the adjoining Continents.

Therefore, according to the Laws of Statics, the Air which is less rarefied or expanded by Heat, and consequently more ponderous, must have a Motion round those Parts thereof which are more rarefied, and less ponderous, to bring it to an Equilibrium; also the Presence of the Sun continually shifting to the Westward, and consequently, the Tendency of the whole Body of the lower Air is that way.

Thus a general Easterly Wind is formed, which being impressed upon all the Air of a

vast Ocean, the Parts impel one another, and so keep moving till the next Return of the Sun, whereby so much of the Motion as was lost, is again restored, and thus the Easterly

Wind is made perpetual.

From the same Principle it follows, that the Easterly Wind should, on the North-side of the Equator, be to the Northwards of the East, and in South Latitudes, to the Southwards thereof; for near the Line, the Air is much more rarefied, than at a greater Distance from it, because the Sun is twice in the Year vertical there, and at no time distant above twenty-three Degrees and one Half; at which Distance, the Heat being at the Sine of the Angle of Incidence, is but little short of the perpendicular Ray: Whereas, under the Tropics, tho' the Sun stays long vertical, yet he is as long forty-seven Degrees off, which is a kind of Winter, wherein the Air fo cools, as that the Summer Heat cannot warm it to the same Degree with that under the Equator; wherefore the Air towards the Northward and Southward being less rarefied than that in the Middle, it follows, that from both Sides it ought to tend towards the Equator. This Motion, compounded with the former Easterly Wind, answers all the Phænomena of the general Trade-Winds, which, if the whole Surface of the Globe were Sea. would undoubtedly blow all round the World. as they are found to do in the Atlantic and Ethiopic Ethiopic Oceans; but feeing that fo great Continents interpose, and break the Continuity of the Oceans, Regard must be had to the Nature of the Soil, and the Position of the high Mountains, which are the two principal Causes of the several Variations of the Wind from the former general Rule; for, if a Country lying near the Sun, prove to be flat, fandy and low Land, fuch as the Defarts of Libya, the Heat occasioned by Reflection of the Sun-beams, and the Retention thereof in the Sands, is incredible to those that have not felt it; whereby the Air being exceedingly rarefied, it is necessary, that this cooler and more dense Air should run thitherwards, to restore the Equilibrium. This is supposed to be the Cause, why, near the Coast of Guiney, the Wind always sets in upon the Land, blowing Westerly instead of Easterly, there being sufficient Reason to believe, that the inland Parts of Africa are predigiously hot, fince the Northern Borders thereof were so intemperate, as to give the Ancients Cause to conclude, That all beyond the Tropics was made uninhabitable by Excess of Heat.

From the same Cause it happens, there are so constant Calms in that Part of the Ocean, called the Rains; for this Tract being placed in the Middle, between the Westerly Winds blowing on the Coast of Guiney, and the Easterly Trade-Winds blowing to the West-

Letter 1. of JAMAICA.

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Westwards thereof, the Tendency of the Air here is indifferent to either, and so stands in Equilibrio between both; and the Weight of the incumbent Atmosphere being diminished by the continual contrary Winds blowing from hence, is the Reason that the Air holds not here the copious Vapour it receives, but

lets it fall in frequent Rains.

But as the cool and dense Air, by reason of its greater Gravity, presses upon the hot and rarefied, 'tis demonstrable, that this latter must ascend in a continued Stream as fast as it rarefies; and that, being ascended. it must disperse itself to preserve the Equilibrium; that is, by a contrary Current, the upper Air must move from those Parts where the greatest Heat is; so, by a kind of Circulation, the North-east Trade-Wind below, and the South-easterly, and North-west Wind, will be attended with a South-westerly above. That this is more than a bare Conjecture, the almost instantaneous Change of the Wind to the opposite Point, which is frequently found in passing the Limits of the Trade-Winds, feems to affore us; but that which, above all, confirms this Hypothesis, is the Phænomenon of the Monfoons, by this means most easily folved, and without it hardly explicable.

We had not proceeded a great deal further till we saw the Pilot Fish, so called, because 'tis never seen but when the Shark is near; we tried every possible Method to kill it, but

it eluded all the Baits we could use. 'Tis indeed the most curious Creature I ever faw. and makes the gayest Appearance in the Water that Fancy can imagine; its Body was diversified with a thousand shining Colours, and so agreeably chequer'd, that it gave greatPleasure to behold it. ItsAppearance made the Sailors conclude there was a Shark not far off; and therefore they foon baited a very large Hook with a Piece of Beef, and in less than two Hours found that destructive Animal fast upon it; they drew it up at great Leisure, and the Carpenter stood ready with his Hatcher to cut it to pieces when brought aboard, which he began to do as foon as within his Reach. I heartily wished they had not been so eager to destroy it; for by that means I lost the Opportunity of obferving it so nicely as I would otherwise have done. By what I could judge, it was shaped like a Sea-dog, and of a monstrous Size. The Head was of the very same Make, the Teeth were thick-fet, and of several Rows, triangular, indented and very sharp; it has a very long Gullet, and in the Belly of it are oftentimes found the Bodies of Men half eaten, fometimes whole and entire; it is covered with a rough, but close-grain'd Skin, with which the Trunk and Case-makers cover a great many Sorts of Boxes and Trunks. 'Tis without Doubt the most destructive Creature that inhabits the watery Element, and is so terrible,

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terrible, that few here will bathe in the Sea

for Fear of being devoured by it.

Thus our Time passed very agreeably, and in a few Weeks we made Land: The first that appeared caused an inexpressible Joy; with eager Eyes we gazed on the distant Mountains, and felt unufual Raptures at the first View of the new World. We were fond to go ashore; the Captain indulged us in our Defire; we put in at St. Christopher's, and were very handsomely entertained. The Gentlemen of Basseterre (which is the chief Town of that Island) feem to be well-bred, of an easy Carriage, gay with their Friend, affable to Strangers, and agreeable in Conversation. We were used with the greatest Civility, and treated with a great many Delicacies, which only America affords: Here we first eat of the Tortoise, and saw the Pine-apple: 'Twas here we had the first View of the Sugar-cane, and the beautiful Fields fenced round with Rows of Limes. I can't enough commend their Generofity; they used us well; and when we were about to depart, expressed the same Concern, as if we had been their long and intimate Acquaintance.

After a short Stay there, and providing ourselves with several Necessaries, we again set Sail. There is a strong Current which sets in from East to West, occasioned by the constant Winds, and the Cluster of Islands which

which are here, and go under the general Name of the Caribbees. This favoured us fo much, that on the feventh Day after we left St. Christopher's, we got within Sight of Famaica. At a little Distance, this Island makes a grand Appearance; the high-rifing Mountains ever green, and cover'd with Wood, and the little Plantations on their Sides, and in the Vallies below, furnish a Prospect which is awful, and yet gives Delight. We gently failed along the Shore, never wearied with gazing on what was now to be our Country and our Home; and I could not help a Croud of Thoughts, which on this Occasion, pressed too fast upon me; sometimes, with Sighs, I remembered the happy Climates, and the dear Acquaintance I had left behind. Britannia rose to my View all-gay, with native Freedom bleft, the Seat of Arts, the Nurse of Learning, and Friend of every Virtue; where the meanest Swain, with quiet Ease, possesses the Fruits of his hard Toil, without Disturbance; while I was now to fettle in a Place not half inhabited, curfed with intestine Broils, where Slavery was established, and the poor toiling Wretches worked in the fultry Heat, and never knew the Sweets of Liberty, or reap'd the Advantage of their painful Industry, in a Place, which, except the Verdure of its Fields, had nothing

to recommend it.

Called !

Letter 1. of JAMAICA. 15

With such Thoughts was my Mind agitated, when Port-Royal offered itself to our View. Here we cast Anchor, and went ashore. At this Point is Fort-Charles, which guards the Inlet to the Harbour or Bay, and is one of the best Fortifications in America. We got a Boat, and made for Kingston, at the Distance of about five Miles; one can't get at it by Land from Port-Royal, without taking a Compass of upwards of fifteen Miles, and that too is a very dangerous Way.

Kingston is a fine Town, well situated and large; here the most considerable Merchants reside, which makes it a Place of vast Trade; 'tis here likewise the Ships load and unload, and you'll never see less than two or three

hundred Vessels in the Bay before it.

As we had a great many Servants on board, and some of them fine Tradesmen, we had foon a Number of the Planters who came to purchase Indentures. It was affecting to see the Shoal of Buyers, and how the poor Fellows were made to pass in Review before their future Tyrants, who looked at them, and examined them, as if they had been so many Horses, Each chose whom he liked best; a good Tradesman went off at about 40 1. and others at 20 l. per Head; they had lived so easily and well during the Voyage, that they looked healthful, clean and fresh, and for this Reason were soon sold. While another Vessel, from the same Port, brought in, a little

little after, a Multitude of poor starved Creatures, that seemed like so many Skeletons: Mifery appeared in their Looks, and one might read the Effects of Sea-tyranny by their wild and dejected Countenances. horrid to relate the Barbarities they complained of: A Word or a wrong Look was construed a Defign to mutiny; and Hunger, Handcuffs, and a Cat o' nine Tails, was immediately the Punishment.

But I must acquaint you, 'tis only aboard of a few Vessels where such Cruelties are practifed. The Generality of Captains are too good and too generous, to be guilty of fuch Baseness; they have juster Notions of Honour than to torture the Helpless, or make the Miserable more unhappy. The Servants have a Right to good Usage; their Masters pay their Passage; why should they by them be maltreated, because they have obliged themselves (by Contract) to serve a limited Number of

Years?

I shall continue from time to time to acquaint you with what I look upon as curious, and endeavour at Truth and Exactness in all I relate.

I am,

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S. I.R.

Yours, &c.



LETTER II.

SIR,

HATEVER dismal Apprehenfions I might have formed on my first Arrival, I now find this Place has too many Beauties not to engage my Attention. It produces

a thousand surprising Curiosities. Kind Nature, in Return for a fultry Sun, has bleffed it with Varieties few Countries can boast of. I'm busied in making Collections, which in time may entertain you: mean while it will be necessary to give you some Idea of the Place.

'Tis situate in 17 Degrees 40 Minutes, North Latitude; about 18 Leagues from Cuba; 24. from Hispaniola; and 140, South-west, from Carthagena; near 160 Miles long, and 55 broad; of an oval Figure, grows narrower from the Middle, till it terminates in two Points, which are the Extremities of the Island; it contains upwards of four Millions of Acres: a Ridge of Hills divides it, which run from Sea to Sea, nearly East and West. Abundance of fine Rivers take here their Rise, and flow from both

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both Sides in gentle Streams, refreshing their Vallies as they glide along; and furnishing sweet and cool Water for the Use of the Inhabitants. They are well stored with Fish of various Kinds; and tho' we cannot boast of their containing many of the European, yet these which they nourish are no less delicious. The Mullet is exceeding palatable, and the Calipever little inferior to the finest Salmon: They excel in Sweetness any that I know. We have Eels and Craw-fish in great Plenty, and abundance of others, which I'll take occasion to name and describe at another time. None of these Rivers are navigable, or indeed could be made so without a vast Expence: Some of them are so large, that Sugars are carried upon them in Canoes from the remote Plantations to the Sea-side. An exact Catalogue of them no Man can pretend to give; for several disappear after a Storm, or alter their Course, and lose their Names; some run for many Miles under Ground, particularly the Rio Cobre, in St. Thomas's in the Vale; and Rio Pedro in the same Precinct: The first of these loses itself at the Distance of nine Miles from the Place, where it again appears; and the other runs about two Miles thro' a Mountain; it falls in with a mighty Noise, and rushes forth with no less. The Negroes, when they go a Fishing, stop the Inlet of the Water, and enter with Ease in the Cavity on the other Side.

Side, where they fish a little way with good Success. This River is only 12 Miles distant from Spanisk-Town, and runs thro' Counsellor Totterdale's Plantation. The other is about 22 Miles, and issues from the Mountain called Monte Diablo, near Mr. Lord's Dwellinghouse.

This Island is very well watered, except in some Places where it is brackish, and unfit for Use; there they use Rain-water, which is found exceeding wholsome; but one will rarely find a Place where they are reduced to this Shift, but in the Mountains belonging to St. Catharine's, the Cattle-penns in the same District, the Parish of Port-Royal, or insome inconsiderable Savannabs.

The Mountains, and indeed the greatest Part of the Island, are covered with Woods, which never lose their Verdure, but look for ever green, and are gay in every Season: 'Tis here an eternal Spring; the Beauties of December equal the Bloom of April. You fee a thousand various Kinds of Trees adorning the Brow of every Hill, irregularly mixing their different Branches, appearing in a gay kind of Confusion, forming Groves and cool Retreats; the Cedar, the Lignam vitæ, the Mahogany, and unnumbered others mingling their Boughs; the one rearing its lofty Head, and others thriving under its friendly Shade: Nor are the Beauties of the better cultivated Vallies inferior to these; they too wear the verdant

verdant Robe of Nature, and please no less, while laid out with the nicest Art and Care, and produce the richest Plants in the Universe; as, the Sugar-cane, the Ginger, and others, which are better to their Owners than a Share in the Mines of Potofi. We can likewise boast of the finest Orange and Lemontrees, in great Plenty. Fruits are so common, that few mind them: on the Way-fides you may pick the Star-apple, the Guava, the Citron, the Mamee, and others. One would be apt to imagine we were here in a kind of Paradife; but these Advantages are balanced with some Things that are difagreeable enough. The Rivers contain the dreadful Alligator; the Fens and Marshes, the Guana and Galliwasp: The Mountains are some of them impassable, and breed numberless Snakes, and noxious Animals. We are exposed to the scorching Heat of a fultry Sun, and the warm Climate makes the Place fickly.

Our longest Day is little above 13 Hours, and the Night proportionably. About Nine in the Forenoon tis intolerably hot, and could scarce be endured, did not the Sea-breeze, which generally begins to blow about that time, temper it, and make the Warmth so moderate, that Persons can apply to Business, and the Negroes work in the Fields; and, without Doubt, were it not for the kindly Effects of the constant Winds, which blow from Nine till Five, no Creature could inhabit here.

here. They are feen gently to approach the Shore in a fine, small, black Curl upon the Water, while the Sea, not yet reached by it, is fmooth and even as can be imagined: In half an Hour after it has reached the Shore, it fans pretty brifkly, and so increases gradually till about Twelve, when 'tis commonly strongest, and lasts till Two or Three; when it begins to die away, and withdraw its Force by degrees till quite spent, (which is about Five o'Clock) and returns no more till next Morning. The People here give it the Name of Doctor, and truly it deserves the Title; for did it not blow, How difmal would the Consequence be? The hot and moist Temperament of the Air would soon bring on Plagues, and other epidemical Distempers, and in a short time turn all to a Defart; but these Evils are provided against by the wife Contriver of Things, who has made these friendly Gales to blow, and temper the Air, that we need not be afraid of such Evils, or hindered going about our lawful Employments.

Sometimes here the Nights are pretty cool; for the Sun being far under the Horizon, there are scarce any reflected Rays to enlighten the Air; which causes the Cold to increase, and the Air being thereby condensed, to fall down by its Weight. Every Night there happens a piercing Dew, which is looked upon as mighty unwholsome; and New-comers, who expose

themselves to its Influence, seldom escape without a severe Sickness. Twilight here is not above three Quarters of an Hour; the common Hypothesis (the Sun's being 18 Degrees under the Horizon) would make it a sull Hour; but the Air there being so gross, is not so high as requisite to make Twilight at the Distance of 18 Degrees; and besides, this Supposition requires very small Light, such as is scarce noticeable.

There are likewise in this Place two Springs, or two Seasons for planting Grain. We do not reckon a Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter, as with you. We have the wet and the dry Season, and this is all the Diflinction we know or use; neither are these at all regular, but vary in many Parts of the Island; about Blue Mountain Valley, and several hilly Places, they have Rains every Day, more or less, the whole Year round; and plant the Sugar-cane, at the very same time they are cutting others for Use. In the North-side the Seasons are pretty regular; they begin to plant in August, and continue till Christmas; all which Time they are fure of Rains; after that, till the End of March, they have none; when it again begins, and continues April and May. In the Plantations on the South-side, the Seasons have much failed. Liguania is quite dry, and fine Sugar-works, that used to produce many hundred Hogsheads, are now carried into Cattle-penns. This likewise is thq

the Fate of the fine Parishes of St. Catharine's. St. Dorothy's and Vere, which once were the choicest and richest Spots in the whole Island, but are now good for little but to graze Cattle; they are dry for almost nine Months, and at Port-Royal there scarce fall forry Showers in a Year. The Reason of this is ascribed to the cutting of the Woods; for, without Doubt, the Trees gathered and retained large Quantities of Vapours, which again were diffused in Dews and Showers; and 'tis only in these Places, where the Rains seldom fall, that their Water is unwholfome or brackish. The Months of July, August and September, are called the Hurricane Months, because then they have been observed to happen most frequent; and scarce a Year passes, but they have fomething that refembles a Storm during that time. It lightens almost every Night, but without much Thunder; which, when it happens, is very terrible, roars with astonishing Loudness, and oftentimes does a great deal of Damage. The Time they expect Earthquakes is in February or March: they have suffered much by such violent Shocks, and observe several Days in a very folemn manner, on account of Storms and Earthquakes, with which they have been almost destroyed.

According to the best Observations I have been able to make, there is not one of three Parts of this Country inhabited. There are

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Plantations round the Island, but none at any great Distance from the Sea; and even these are so far from being cultivated, that one half of the Ground is not cleared, but overgrown with Wood: A Gentleman that has patented Three or Four thousand Acres, perhaps has Five hundred of them well laid out and improved, the rest useless. The Soil in fome Places is exceeding fertile; one Acre has been known to yield several Hogsheads of Sugar; yet here-and-there one finds Savannahs or large Plains, where the Indians are used to plant their Maize, and which afterwards the Spaniards made use of for breeding their Cattle: These are now quite hare and barren, and, in a short time, I'm afraid, several other Places will partake of the same Fate.

Round the Island are a great many fine Bays; as Port-Royal, Port-Morant, Old Harbour, Point-Negril, Port-Antonio, Michael's Hole, Alligator-Pond, Point-Pedro, Paratee-Bay, Luana-Bay, Blewfield's-Bay, Cabaretas-Bay, Cold-Harbour, Rio Novo, Montigo-Bay, Orange-Bay, and many others, which are convenient for Shipping; and some of them might be improved to excellent Purposes, in case of a War with Spain; for a Fleet might lie with the greatest Safety, and watch the Motions of any Ships from the Havannah.

There are only three Towns of any Note, Port-Royal, Kingston, and Spanish-Town. Port-

Port-Royal was once the fairest Sea-port in America; it flowed in Riches and Trade, but now is only a small Place; and yet it consists of three handsome Streets, several cross Lanes, and a fine Church: They have here an Hospital for fick or disabled Sailors, and there is lately built a Yard for the King's naval Stores, and Conveniency of Workmen employed about his Majesty's Ships of War. It is built on a small Neck of Land, which jets out several Miles into the Sea, and is guarded by one of the strongest Forts in the West-Indies. which has a Line of near a Hundred Pieces of Cannon, and a Garison of Soldiers maintained at the Expence of the Crown. The Harbour is, perhaps, one of the best in the World; a Thousand Sail of Ships may ride there, and be fecure from every Wind which can blow: 'Tis five Miles by Water, and fix more by Land, distant from Spanish-Town, and about the same Distance of Water betwixt it and Kingston.

Kingston was built after the great Earthquake 1692, which destroyed Port-Royal. The Plan of the Town was drawn by Colonel Christian Lilly, yet alive, and then chief Engineer in Lilling ston's Expedition to the West-Indies. After its satal Miscarriage thro' the Pride and Avarice of the Commodore, the Regiment came to Jamaica, where it was broke, and this Gentleman, and several other Officers, continued on the Island. He has since

fince done good Service, and has now the Place

of his Majesty's chief Engineer here.

According to his Plan King fron was built, and is now a large thriving Town; it will be a Mile long, and half a one broad, laid out into little Squares by cross Streets; here the inferior Courts fit, and the Receiver-General, Naval Officer, Secretary and Surveyor, are obliged to keep Offices: it increases daily, and now mounts ten Companies of Foot, and two Troops of Horse; and, in case of a War, would be another Port-Royal. It has one Church with a poor Burying-place. The Yews have here two Synagogues, and the Quakers a Place of Meeting. It is bounded by the Harbour of Port-Royal to the Southwest, and North by Lands patented by Sir William Beefton, and continued by a Calabathtree, on the North-east Corner by a strait Line to the Foot of the long Mountain, from thence, till it meets with the Bounds of the Parish of Port-Royal. It is distant from Spanish-Town 19 Miles the Land-way; by Sea fix, and fix further by Land.

Spanish-Town is the chief City; 'tis there the Governor resides, and there the Assembly and the grand Courts of Justice are kept: It was built by the Spaniards, and by them termed St. Jago de la Vega; which Name it yet retains in all publick Deeds and Writings. 'Tis situated in a fine pleasant Valley, on the Banks of the Rio Cobre, and has all the

the Advantages that could be wished. It was once a large and populous Town, confifting of upwards of 2000 Houses, Two Churches, and a Monastery, besides several private Chapels. Now 'tis reduced to a small Compass, has one fine Church, and a Chapel, and contains not upwards of 500 Inhabitants. Being an in-land Place, its Trade is inconfiderable; but feveral wealthy Merchants reside there, and most Gentlemen of Estates have Houses in it. and live after a very gay manner; 'tis furprising to see the Number of Coaches and Chariots which are perpetually plying, befides those which belong to private Persons: They have frequent Balls, and lately have got a Play-house, where they retain a Set of extraordinary good Actors. In short, they live as happily as if they were within the Verge of the British Court : And to do them Justice. they feem perfectly polite, and have a Delicacy of Behaviour, which is exceeding taking.

There are several other inconsiderable Towns, which scarce deserve Notice. We see the Ruins of Sevilla and Orestan, and several others built by the Spaniards; some of the Ground where they formerly stood, now produces the Sugar-cane, and other common Commodities in the Island. In time the Town of Titchfield may become considerable; it is situated near Port-Antonio, which contains a very handsome and regular Fort, designed to guard that Part of the Island from

any Surprize; a few Soldiers are still there under a Captain's Command. They are now about building a kind of Town, at a Place they call Bagnels, in the Parish of St. Anne's; a good Space of Ground is laid out for that Purpose; but, I'm afraid, this Design will prove abortive, as feveral others have done of the same Nature. There is a small Town in the Parish of St. David's, called Free-Town, and Passage-Fort in St. Catharine's; this last consists of about Fifty Houses, and being the only Place where one can take Boat, either for King ston or Port-Royal, it draws a great many Strangers, which gives it a thriving and increasing Trade. Carliste in Vere is another inconfiderable Village; there was a Fort erected there after the Invasion of the French in 1695; but it is now in Ruins; These are all that deserve any Notice. We have the Island divided into Nineteen Parishes or Precincts; viz. 1. King ston. 2. Port-Royal. 3. St. Catharine's. 4. St. Dorothy's. 5. Clarendon. 6. Vere. 7. St. Elizabeth's. 8. Hanover. 9. Westmorland. 10. St. George's. 11. St. James's. 12. St. Anne's. 13. St. Mary's. 14. Portland. 15. St. Thomas in the East. 16. St. David's. 17. St. Andrew's. 18. St. Jobn's; and, 19. St. Thomas in the Vale.

We must not look for the Beauties of Architecture here; the publick Buildings are neat, but not fine. The Churches in the Towns

bad

bad

are generally in Form of a Cross, with a small Cupola at Top, built high in the Walls, paved within, and adorned with no manner of Finery. In Spanish-Town they have an Organ, which is reckoned a very complete one, and another in St. Andrew's; the other Churches are decent small Houses, scarce to be known for fuch: The Clergy trouble them little, and their Doors are feldom open. The Governor's House faces the great Parade in Spani/b-Town; one Part of it confifts of two Stories; it was lately rebuilt by his Grace the Duke of Portland, and is of Stone, a very commodious House; a little Court adjoins to the great Dwelling-house, where are several handsome Apartments, now commonly used only for lodging his Excellency's Servants; it has a curious Garden towards the West, which is generally kept in excellent Repair.

The Court-House, where the Chief Justice and his Assistants sit in time of Session, is a small square Building, about Forty Foot each way; the Seats of the Judges are considerably raised, almost Ten Feet from the Level; the Provost Marshal has a Chair placed for him on the Right-hand, and the Lawyers have Seats at a good Distance opposite to the Judges. The King's Attorney sits always in the Middle,

in a large Chair kept for that Use.

The Gaols are excellently contrived; for the Prisoners have the Liberty of a very large Yard to walk in, which prevents the bad Consequences their close Confinement might produce in such a warm Climate.

The Gentlemens Houses are generally built low, of one Story, consisting of five or six handsome Apartments, beautifully lined and sloored with Mahogany, which looks exceeding beautiful; they have generally a Piazza, to which you ascend by several Steps, and serves for a Screen against the Heat, and likewise is a way of enjoying the Benefit of any Coolness in the Air. In the Towns there are several Houses which are two Stories; but that way of Building is disapproved of, because they seldom are known to stand the Shock of an Earthquake, or the Fury of a Storm.

The Negroes have nothing but a Parcel of poor miserable Huts built of Reeds, none of which can contain upwards of two or three

Persons.

There are few Gardens which deserve Notice; the chief Curiosities they produce are Cabbage, English Pease, some Kinds of European Fruits, and others peculiar to the Place. It is found, the Apple-tree never comes to any Persection, or bears but a very sew Years; and the same may be said of other Fruits, which thrive best in colder Climates: And indeed, would they lay out their Gardens, and surnish them with such Things as here would thrive, they would be beautiful enough; but they distain the Citron,

Citron, the Orange or the Lemon, the Cocoa or Pomegranate; and prefer, to the beautiful Shades and Fragrancy of these, a Parcel of Shrubs which are of no manner of Use.

The common Drink here is Madeira Wine. or Rum-Punch; the first, mixed with Water, is used by the better Sort; the latter, by Servants, and the inferior kind of People. The Madeira is a wholfome Wine, and agrees perfectly well with one's Constitution in this Place; 'tis cheap, only about Twenty Pounds per Pipe, and a fingle Quart may be had for Fifteen Pence. There is a Duty on every Pipe of Forty Shillings to the King, which is duly paid; for there is nothing like smuggling here. 'Tis computed, near 10,000 Pipes are yearly imported hither, which are either confumed in the Island, or carried to other adjacent Colonies for Sale. Rum-Punch is not improperly called Kill-devil; for Thousands lose their Lives by its means: When New-comers use it to the least Excess, they expose themfelves to imminent Peril; for it heats the Blood, and brings on Fevers, which in a very few Hours send them to their Grave. The greatest Moderation is necessary in using it, and could it be avoided altogether, 'twere much better; at least, till one be well feasoned to the Place. By a late Act, all retailed Rum pays Seven Pence Halfpenny penny per Gallon Duty, and the Retailer is fworn to the Quantities he sells. They want not other Kinds of Liquors, which are common with you, but at excessive high Rates: Ale is Half a Crown a Bottle, Claret Seven Shillings and Six-pence, and so of the rest. All Wines imported in Bottles pay a Duty so

much per Dozen.

The common Bread here is Plantain, Yams or Cassava; the first is of an oblong Figure, grows in Clusters on a Tree, and when pulled green, and roafted, eats very deliciously. The Yams are a Root, and, I think, a kind of Potatoe, but of a vastly larger Size: Some of them weigh several Pounds; they make very good Bread, and Cassava no worse; which is the Root of a Shrub taken and squeezed, (for the Cassava Juice is a mortal Poison) and when dry, grated, and put in Water, where it stands a confiderable Time: The Water being poured off, and the Flour dry, they strew a little of it on a Gridiron, which makes a Cake that is white and crifp, and much in Request here, being preferred by our Creoles to any other Bread whatsoever. They do not want Flour from New-England, and the Northern Colonies. In every House they have an Oven, and bake as they find Occasion. They use no Yeast but Leaven; but their Loaves are so bad, that few chuse to eat them. There are here such great plenty of Hogs,

that few Plantations but have feveral Hundreds; their Flesh is so sweet and delicate, that nothing can equal it. They have other Kinds of Meat, particularly the Tortoife. which is fine, and exquifitely pleafant. Their Beef is tough and lean, scarce fit for any thing but Soups. The Mutton and Lamb is tolerable. Sheep here have no Wook, but Hair like a Goat, and seem to be of a larger Size than ours. The Prices of Meat have been frequently regulated by Acts of Affembly; Beef is now 7 d. 1 per Pound, Mutton and Hog the same, Lamb and Veal 15 d. The Servants feldom are allowed any fresh Provisions, but feed on Irish falt Beef, which fometimes is exceeding coarse. The Negroes have Herrings and falt Fish at very easy Rates. The Island is well furnished with falt Cod from Newfoundland, which have lately been so cheap, as to be sold for 10 s. per hundred Weight. With these they make their Oglios or Pepper-pots, which some here are exceeding fond of; they take Callilu, which is the Top of a small Root, and boil it with beaten Maiz or Indian Corn, (which they call Fu Fu) Herring, falt Fish, and red Pepper, and, when 'tis ready, ear it as we' do Broth. The Negroes make a hearty Feast on a Rat. The Island is quite over-run with these Animals; they nest among the Canes, and feed on their Juice; they do incredible Damage to the Sugar Plantations, and several times"

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times in a Year they are forced to scatter Poison round the Cane-pieces: Yet none of these Methods prevail; they still increase; and therefore the Gentlemen encourage their Slaves to destroy them, who lay Traps, and catch them in great Numbers. They have a Bottle of Rum for every Fifty, and they broil and eat them with a great deal of Pleasure. They likewise feed on Cats, and at their Feasts seldom want one handsomely fricasseed.

The common Dress here is none of the most becoming: The Heat makes many Cloaths intolerable, and therefore the Men generally wear only Thread Stockings, Linen Drawers and Vest, a Handkerchief tied round their Head, and a Hat above. Wigs are never used but on Sundays, or in Court-time; and then Gentlemen appear very gay in filk Coats, and Vests trimmed with Silver. The Servants wear a coarse Osnabrug Frock, which buttons at the Neck and Hands, long Trowfers of the same, a speckled Shirt, and no Stock-Negroes go mostly naked, except those who attend Gentlemen, who take care to have them dreffed in their own Livery, tho' 'tis the utmost Pain to the uneasy Slave.

The Ladies are as gay as any-where in Europe, drefs as richly, and appear with as good a Grace. Their Morning Habit is a loofe Night-gown, carelessy wrapped about them; before Dinner they get out of their

Dishabille,

Letter 2. of JAMAICA.

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Dishabille, and shew themselves in all the Advantage of a becoming rich neat Dress. The Servant-Maids have generally a Linen or striped Holland Gown, and plain Head-cloaths. The Negro Women go many of them quite naked; they do not know what Shame is, and are surprised at an European's Bashfulness, who perhaps turns his Head aside at the Sight. Their Masters give them a kind of Petticoat, but they do not care to wear it. In the Towns they are obliged to do it, and some of them there go neat enough; but these are the Favourites of young 'Squires, who keep them for a certain Use.

Learning is here at the lowest Ebb; there is no publick School in the whole Island, neither do they feem fond of the thing; feveral large Donations have been made for fuch Uses, but have never taken Effect. The Office of a Teacher is looked upon as contemptible, and no Gentleman keeps Company with one of that Character; to read, write, and cast Accounts, is all the Education they defire, and even these are but scurvily taught. A Man of any Parts of Learning, that would employ himself in that Business, would be despised and starve. The Gentlemen, whose Fortunes can allow it, fend their Children to Great Britain, where they have the Advantage of a polite generous Education; but others are spoil'd, and make

fuch an inconfiderable Figure ever after, that they are the common Butt in every Converfation. Mr. Beckford has lately bequeathed 2000 l. Sterling, for a Free-school: It is doubtful whether this Gentleman's Intentions will be answered by the Managers; for by their way of proceeding, there is small Appearance they defign to encourage Men of Merit to take upon them such an Office. Several have lately offered themselves, who were every way qualified for the Undertaking, and some promised themselves Success, from the good Disposition they perceived in many to encourage their Design; but after a Trial, were of Necessity obliged to quit it. 'Tis Pity, in a Place like this, where the Means could be so easily afforded, fomething of a publick Nature should not be done for the Advantage of Posterity; but when such a Spirit will appear, is hard to determine. There are indeed several Gentlemen who are well acquainted with Learning, in some of its most valuable Branches, but these are few; and the Generality seem to have a greater Affection for the modish Vice of Gaming than the Belles Lettres, and love a Pack of Cards better than the Bible. To talk of a Homer, or a Virgil, of a Tully, or a Demosthenes, is quite unpolite; and it cannot be otherwise; for a Boy, till the Age of Seven or Eight, diverts himself with the Negroes, acquires their broken way of talking, their Manner

Manner of Behaviour, and all the Vices which these unthinking Creatures can teach; then perhaps he goes to School; but young Master must not be corrected; if he learns, 'tis well; if not, it can't be helped. After a little Knowledge of reading, he goes to the Dancing-school, and commences Beau, learns the common Topicks of Discourse, and visits and rakes with his Equals. This is their Method; and how can it be supposed one of fuch a Turn can entertain any generous Notions, distinguish the Beauties of Virtue, act for the Good of his Country, or appear in any Station of Life, so as to deserve Applause? Some of the Ladies read, they all dance a great deal, coquet much, dress for Admirers; and at last, for the most part, run away with the most infignificant of their humble Ser-Their Education confifts entirely in acquiring these little Arts. 'Tis a thousand Pities they do not improve their Minds, as well as their Bodies; they would then be charming Creatures indeed!

The current Coin here is entirely Spanish; you do not see any English Money, but in the Closets of the Curious. I believe there is no Place where the Silver is so plenty. They use no Copper; the lowest Piece is a Ryal, which here passes for $7 d. \frac{1}{2}$, but a Halfpenny in Britain will go a great deal surther: Indeed, considering the excessive dear Living, there ought to be good Wages, and Money in

plenty.

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plenty. You can't dine for less than a Piece of Eight, and the common Rate of Boarding is three Pounds per Week. The Difference betwixt our Money and British, is 25 per Cent. 75 l. Sterling makes 100 l. Jamaica Currency. For your Satisfaction and Use, I shall subjoin a Table of the Money here.

A TABLE of Money,

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By this Table you'll readily see, after what manner we reckon our Money, and what is the Value, in our Currency, of any of the common common Pieces which we have here: An English Guinea will fetch twenty-eight Shillings, a Crown six Shillings and three Pence, &c. The Reason of raising the Value of the Coin, was to prevent its being carried out of the Island; but it has not had that Effect; for great Quantities are daily sent to Britain: And we have another Loss; the Jews clip and debase the Coin so much, that some Pieces of Eight won't weigh sistem Pennyweight, whereas they ought to be 17½. There have been lately several Trials for this Crime; but strong Interest with some in Power, has eluded the deserved Punishment.

They have indeed here the feverest ways of punishing. No Country exceeds them in a barbarous Treatment of Slaves, or in the cruel Methods by which they put them to Death: A rebellious Negro, or he that twice strikes a white Man, is condemned to the Flames; he is carried to the Place of Execution, and chained flat on his Belly, his Arms and Legs extended; then Fire is fet to his Feet, and so he is burnt gradually up: Others they starve to Death, with a Loaf hanging before their Mouths: I have seen these unfortunate Wretches gnaw the Flesh off their own Shoulders, and expire in all the frightful Agonies of one under the most horrid Tortures. Perhaps, indeed, such Severities may in some fort be excused, when

we confider the State of the Country, and how impossible it would be to live amidst fuch Numbers of Slaves, without watching their Conduct with the greatest Strictness, and punishing their Faults with the utmost

Severity.

They have lately been very exact in the Distribution of Justice, and are happy in a chief Judge, whose fair, candid, honest Proceedings, have gained him universal Esteem. But, to fay the Truth, our young Squires are not much afraid of Courts of Justice. What terrifies a Jamaica Man most, are Hurricanes and Earthquakes; these generally ruin his Estate, and endanger or destroy his Life, and for that Reason he trembles at the

Thoughts of either.

Hurricanes are so called, from the Indian Word Hurica, which fignifies the Devil: They feldom happen but between the Tropics, and within the Reach of the Trade-Wind, which blowing perpetually from the Eastern Points, if it chance to be repelled by a Landbreeze, or any contrary Motion from the West, this must of course occasion strange Conflicts and Commotions in the Air: And were our Senses sufficiently fine, to discern the Commotions of the Atmosphere, we should see it oftentimes disturbed and fluctuating, no less than the most tempestuous Sea. When the constant Wind begins to thift from the Easterly Points, a Hurricane

is expected, which indeed is the most violent and terrible of Tempests. Formerly they feldom happened here, but they are now very frequent: Ordinarily the Sea becomes calm on a fudden, and fmooth as Glass; presently after, the Air is darkened, and filled with thick and gloomy Clouds; after which, 'tis all on Fire, as it were, and opens on every Side, with dreadful Lightnings, that last a considerable time: Then follow horrible Claps of Thunder, that feem as if the Heavens were rent afunder; and the Wind blows with fuch Impetuofity and Force, that it roots up the tallest and stoutest Trees, beats down Houses, destroys every thing within its Whirl, and often compels Men to catch hold of the Trunks of Trees, to fecure themselves from being carried away by the Winds. Some lie in the Caves, or retire into the Huts of the Negroes, which are built exceeding low, and elude the Shocks of the Tempest: In a few Hours, it makes the whole Round of the Heavens, and blows from every Point of the Compass, so that most of the Ships, at that time on the Coast, miserably perish.

When the Storm is over, you behold a very dismal Spectacle, Forests overturned, Houses beaten down, and Multitudes of People destroyed by its Fury, and lying exposed to

open View.

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As to Earthquakes, Mr. Boyle thinks they are often occasioned by the sudden Fall of ponderous Masses in the hollow Parts of the Earth, whereby those terrible Shakings and Shocks are produced.

The learned Dr. Woodward, in his Essay towards a Natural History of the Earth, gives

the following Account of Earthquakes.

He supposes the subterranean Heat or Fire, (which is continually elevating Water out of the Abyss, to furnish the Earth with Rain, Dew, Springs, and Rivers) when stopped in any Part of the Earth, and diverted from its ordinary Course, by some accidental Glut, or Obstruction in the Pores or Passages, thro' which it used to ascend to the Surface, becomes, by this means, preternaturally affembled in a greater Quantity than usual into one Place, and therefore causes a great Rarefaction and Intumescence of the Water of the Abyss, putting it into very great Commotions and Disorders; and, at the same time, making the like Effort on the Earth, which is expanded upon the Face of the Abyss; and that this occasions that Agitation and Concussion of it, which we call Earthquakes.

This Effort is in some Earthquakes so vehement, that it splits and tears the Earth, making Cracks and Chasms in it some Miles in Length, which open at the Instant of the Shocks, and close again in the Intervals betwixt them; nay, 'tis sometimes so extremely vio-

lent,

lent, that it plainly forces the superincumbent Strata, breaks them all throughout, and thereby perfectly undermines and ruins the Foundation of them; so that these failing, the whole Tract, as soon as ever the Shock is over, sinks down into the Abyss underneath, and is swallowed up by it, the Water thereof immediately rising up, and forming a Lake in the Place where the said Tract was before.

Several confiderable Tracts of Land, and fome with Cities and Towns standing upon them, as also whole Mountains, many of them very large, and of great Height, have

been thus totally swallowed up.

The Effort being made in all Directions indifferently upwards, downwards, and on every Side, the Fire dilating and expanding on all hands, and endeavouring proportionably to the Quantity and Strength of it, to get room, and make its way thro' all Obstacles, has the same Effect upon the Water of the Abyss beneath, as upon the Water above, forcing it forth which way soever it can find Vent or Passage, as well through its ordinary Exits, Wells, Springs, and the Outlets of Rivers, as through the Chasms then newly opened, thro' the Camini or Spiracles of Ætna, or other near Volcano's, and those Hiatus's at the Bottom of the Sea, whereby the Abyss below opens into it, and communicates with it.

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As the Water, resident in the Abyss, is in all Parts of it stored with a considerable Quantity of Heat, and more especially in those, where these extraordinary Aggregations of this Fire happen; so likewise is the Water, which is thus forced out of it; infomuch that when thrown forth, and mixed with the Waters of Springs, Wells, Rivers, and the

Sea, it renders them very fenfibly hot.

It is usually expelled in vast Quantities, and with great Impetuofity, infomuch that it hath been feen to spout out of deep Wells, and fly forth at the Tops of them upon the Surface of the Ground; with like Rapidity it comes out of the Sources of Rivers, filling them so of a sudden, as to make them overflow the adjacent Territories, without so much as one Drop of Rain falling into them, or any other concurrent Water to raise or augment them.

It issues out of the Chasms opened by the Earthquake in great Abundance, mounting up in mighty Streams to an incredible Height in the Air, and this oftentimes at many Miles

Distance from the Sea.

It likewise pours forth of the Volcano's in vast Floods, and with wonderful Violence: 'tis forced thro' the Hiatus's at the Bottom of the Sea with fuch Force, that it puts the Sea immediately into the most horrible Diforders and Perturbation, even when there is not the least Breath of Wind stirring, but all

all till then calm, and making it rage and roar with a hideous and amazing Noise, raising its Surface into prodigious Waves, and tossing and rolling them about in a very strange and surious manner, oversetting Ships in the Harbours, and sinking them to the Bottom.

'Tis refunded out of these Hiatus's in such Quantity also, that it makes a vast Addition to the Water of the Sea, raising it many Fathoms higher than ever it slows in the highest Tides; so as to overwhelm the adjacent Country, by the most dreadful Inundations, and thereby ruining and destroying Towns and Cities, drowning both Men and Cattle, breaking the Cables of Ships, driving them from their Anchors, and carrying them several Miles up into the Country, and there running them a-ground, stranding Whales and other great Fishes, and leaving them at its Recess upon dry Land.

These Phænomena are not new, or peculiar to the Earthquakes, which have happened in our Time; but have been observed in all Ages, of which History gives us many ex-

traordinary Instances.

The Fire itself, which being thus assembled and pent up, is the Cause of all these Perturbations, makes its way forth also by what Passages soever it can get Vent, thro' the Cracks of the Earth above-mentioned,

and thro' the Aperture of Springs, especially those of the Therma, or Baths, or any other way it can either find or make; and being thus discharged, the Earthquake ceaseth till the Cause return again, and a fresh Collection of Fire commits the same Outrages as before.

There is sometimes in Commotion a Portion of the Abyss of that vast Extent, as to shake the Earth incumbent upon it, for fo very large a Part of the Globe together, that the Shock is felt precisely the same Minute in Countries many hundred Miles distant from each other; and this, even tho' they happen to be parted by Seas lying betwixt them; and there want not Instances of fuch an universal Concussion of the Globe, as must needs imply an Agitation of the whole Abyls.

And though the Abyss be liable to these Commotions in all Parts, and hardly any Country is wholly exempted from its Effects, yet they are no-where very remarkable, nor are there usually any great Damages by Earthquakes, except only in those Countries which are mountainous, and confequently stony and cavernous underneath; and especially where the Disposition of the Strata is such, that these Caverns open into the Abyss, so freely admit and entertain the Fire, which affembling therein, is the Cause of the

the Shock; for it naturally steers its Course to that way, where it finds the readiest Reception, which is towards those Caverns; and to this indeed is much owing the Cause of Damps in Mines; besides, that those Parts of the Earth, which abound with Strata of Stone or Marble, making the strongest Opposition to this Effort, are the most suriously shattered, and suffer much more by it, than those which consist of Gravel, Sand, and the like laxer Matter, which more easily give way, and make not so great Resistance; an Event observable, not only in this, but all other Explosions whatsoever.

But above all, those Countries which yield great Store of Sulphur and Nitre, are by far the most injured by Earthquakes, these Minerals constituting in the Earth a kind of natural Gun-powder, which taking Fire upon this Assemblage and Approach of it, occasions that murmuring Noise, and subterranean Thunder, which is heard rumbling in the Bowels of the Earth during the time of Earthquakes; and by the Assistance of its explosive Power, renders the Shock much greater, so as sometimes to make miserable

Havock and Destruction.

The fad Effects of such surious Shocks have been more felt in the Island of Jamaica, than perhaps in any other Country. The satal 7th of June 1692. will be ever remembered,

bered, a Day when they suffered the greatest Calamity that ever befel a People. Towns were sunk, Mountains divided, and one universal Devastation appeared over the whole Island. They have an annual Fast on that Day; and then indeed I have seen something like Charity and Goodness among them. After such Storms or Shocks the Place becomes sickly, and they who escape the Fury of the one, stand a second Chance of being carried off by the Diseases which generally succeed.

Our political Arithmeticians imagine, once in seven Years there is a Revolution of Lives in this Island, that as many die in that Space of Time as at once inhabit it; and no doubt the Multitude that dies would foon leave the Place a Defart, did not daily Recruits come over from Great Britain. Scarce a Ship arrives, but has Paffengers who defign to fettle, and Servants for Sale. This is a constant Supply, and a necessary one; for notwithstanding their vast Numbers, the Island but flowly fettles; and I don't know if twenty new Plantations have been made these dozen Years past. But after all, I persuade myself, that much of this Mortality is to be ascribed rather to Intemperance than the Climate; for after they have been confined to a regular and hard Living in their Voyage, when they once get ashore, and find Plenty of Rumpunch,

punch, &c. they run into the other Extreme at once, and swallow it down with Greediness, get drunk, expose themselves to the noxious Dews, are seized with Fevers, and die. Wherefore 'tis my firm Belief, that if New-comers were more careful to live moderate, and abstain from the Use of spirituous Liquors, they might live as happily and free of Diseases here as in any other Climate.

The common Distempers which are troublesome here, are high Fevers and Belly-achs. I believe there is seldom any Disserence betwixt these Distempers here, and those of the same Sort incident to Mankind in other Places. The Fevers are generally exceeding violent, and a sew Hours will carry off the Person it has seized: Few miss it on their first Arrival; and this is the Reason why many die so soon after they come to famaica. The Physicians order plentiful Bleeding, and if that has not the desired Success, they apply Blisters as the last Remedy.

The Belly-ach is perhaps the severest Painthat can be endured; many lose the Use of their Limbs for ever by it, and during the time of their Illness cry like a Woman in Travail. The common Remedies for this Disease are gentle Doses of Physic, and Clysters; after they are something recovered, the Coldbath is prescribed, which proves of excellent Use in restoring them to their former Vigour,

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and the right Exercise of their Limbs. The Physicians here, of any Note, generally make fine Estates; but the Island is quite crouded with raw unexperienced Youths, who imagine this the properest Place for a Settlement; and when they come over, are generally set to prescribe to a Parcel of Negroes in some Country-plantations. Their Numbers make but dull Business for most of them; and in the Towns there are generally one or two eminent Men who have the Employment, and foon get to be rich. Jamaica has had feveral that practifed Physic, who make no mean Figure in the learned World. Sir Hans Sloane refided here, while he made that noble Collection of Plants, with a Description of which he has obliged the World under the Title of the Natural History of Jamaica. His Nephew Dr. Fuller is lately come over, and by his excellent Qualifications recommends himself to the good Graces of every one of Sense, and his Success with his Patients promises him abundance of Business.

Dr. Clifton, late Physician to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, practises here with great Applause, and was much esteemed while he lived, and regretted at his Death. Several others deserve to be named, but I

would avoid being tedious.

The general Produce of this Island is Sugar, Rum, Ginger, Cotton, Coffee, Indico, Pimento,

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Pimento, Cocoa, several Kinds of Wood, and some medicinal Drugs; it affords To-bacco, but not of extraordinary Goodness; and for that Reason sew plant or cultivate it farther than to provide sufficient for the Use of their Negroes, who could scarce live without it.

No Sorts of European Grain grow here; we have only Maiz or Indian Corn, Guiney Corn, Pease of various Kinds, but none of them resembling yours, with Variety of Roots. Fruits grow in great Plenty, the Seville and China Orange, the common and sweet Lemon, Shaddocks, Citrons, Pomegranates, Mamies, sour Sops, Papas, Pine-apples, Custard-apples, Star-apples, prickly Pears, Allicada Pears, Melons, Pompions, Guavas, and several Kind of Berries, which are every-where to be found in the Woods.

And now having thus laid down feveral general Observations, which will be of Use to understand the following Accounts, and may serve to give you an Idea of the Island, I shall, in my next, proceed to the historical Part, in which I shall use all the Exactness possible.

I am,

S 1 R,

Yours, &c.

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LETTER III.

SIR,

HE History of this Island is something obscure, and I shall necessarily be obliged to build a good deal upon Tradition. We have a great many Abstracts of re-

markable Occurrences in this Island; but for the most part, they are either such as are confused, or fictitious: I shall take care to secure myself against the first of these Errors, by placing every thing in the natural Order in which it happened; and against the second, by confulting authentic Records, and the Information of Men, who might be supposed to be best acquainted with the Circumstances of the particular Actions.

Jamaica owes its Discovery to the Man who first ploughed the American Seas, and found out the new World; that mighty Genius, who was born to attempt the greatest Adventures, I mean Columbus; who discovered this Place, in his Return from the Continent of South America, and named it St. James's Isle; but that Name it foon loft, and was generally

called Jamaica, which it still retains.

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On the first Arrival of the Spaniards, the Indians appeared in Arms, and bravely refolved to maintain their Liberties against these bold Intruders; and had certainly been fuccessful, at least for a while, if these cunning Cutthroats had not deluded them by specious Shews of Peace, and won on their simple Natures to credit their well-contrived Protestations: But they foon felt the dismal Effects of giving Faith to Spaniards; they were no fooner in a Condition of executing their bloody Defigns, than they began a miserable Havock, butcher'd, murder'd, and destroyed, in a few Years, no less than 60,000 of the Inhabitants, and scarce left one alive. Some retired to the Woods, and absconded in the Caves and Fastnesses, whither they were pursued and hunted by the Tyrants, and cut to Pieces. Jamaica was, before this, one of the best-peopled of all the Antilles; but fuch was the destructive Slaughter which the Spaniards made, that the very Name of an Indian was, in a few Years, rooted out, and none left to preserve the Memory of that once flourishing People. After they had thus secured themselves by the basest of Means, and found Leisure to retire from Bloodshed, they began to contrive how they might best settle, and pitched upon a fine Spot of Ground in the Western Part of the Island, where they built the City of Melilla; but its Situation was incommodious, and therefore they foon deferted it, and fettled Northward, where they built Sevilla. E 3

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Sevilla, and afterwards Oriftan, which lay on the other Side of the Mountain, on the opposite Shore; thus they shifted about, still diffatisfied, till at last they concluded on St. Jago de la Vega, to which Place they removed, and there made a fine City, of which Columbus was made Duke. The Sweetness of this Place, and the Fertility of the adjacent Fields, invited the Spaniards to refide in it; The Savannabs, which are now so barren and useless, were then the richest Spots in the Island, and yielded all manner of Necessaries; there they planted not only Provisions of every Kind, but likewise several useful Commodities, such as Indico, Cocoa, &c. the Remains of which Works are yet to be seen: But tho' they were thus charmingly fituated, and had the Bleffings of Nature poured out in the greatest Plenty, it served to no other Purpose, but to increase their natural Laziness; they indulged themselves in all kinds of debauched Effeminacy, and neglected to improve the Soil, or better it any manner of way: If they could provide a little Tobacco, Sugar and Chocolate, they looked upon themselves as sufficiently happy, and for every thing else appeared quite care-Their Trade was in proportion to their Industry; few Vessels visited them, and these that did, found it turn but to a very forry Account: All they could afford them, was a few Hides, some Pepper and Cocoa-Nuts. Thus these first Planters were unworthy of the Name

Name of Men by their Cruelty, and of all Society by their Indolence; yet they could find the means unmercifully to butcher an incredible Number of simple undefigning Creatures; and for no other Reason, but to secure to themselves the quiet Possession of a Place, which they would not be at the Pains to cultivate. Indeed few defired to settle here; the greatest Part were such who could not avoid it; for those that could make any Figure in the World, went to Hispaniola, Cuba, or the Continent, which were infinitely preferable; for there they not only had a fairer Opportunity of advancing their Fortunes, but of living at Ease: For in Jamaica the Dukes de la Vega were Proprietors and Governors of the Island, and exacted fuch high Imposts, that they were quite intolerable. It is certainly Fact, that thefe Successors of Columbus acted more like fovereign Tyrants than any thing elfe, and used the utmost Severity in collecting the Stints which they had imposed, which being mostly on Portuguese, they did it with the better Will; for they were the greatest Part of the first Settlers, and the Spaniards always bore them an irreconcileable Aversion.

Thus, by such cruel and rapacious Methods, the Colony became rather on the Decline; sew chose to settle where they were sure to be oppressed; and those who had Effects of Value, removed to other Places, where they might enjoy the Fruits of their Toil and Industry.

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The Governors were fenfible how much their Mismanagement tended to the Disadvantage of their Sovereign, and their own particular Hurt; for tho', with unrelenting Hands, they fqueezed out, from an indolent Few, a forry Revenue to support their own Luxury, yet they were fenfible, that even that could not hold long; for besides the inactive Temper of these Men, which made them neglect to improve the natural Advantages of the Place, they had a stronger Motive to encourage their Idleness and Sloth; they saw, in proportion as they acquired any thing valuable, it was mostly torn from them, and they were left to enjoy only what their unrighteous Rulers would please to allow them.

In this unhappy Situation did things remain, when the Governor strictly forbid any, under the severest Penalties, to remove to happier Governments: This new Piece of Oppression occasioned a Representation of their Grievances to the Catholick King Philip II. But that defigning Monarch, having then other Views, (for this was about the Time that Europe was alarmed by the vast Preparations he made, which afterwards shewed themselves to be against England) had not Leisure to mind the Complaints of a petty Colony. This increased the Discontents, which before but too much prevailed; and the Planters had no Confidence in their Governor, or he in them: They lived therefore in a State of mutual Diffidence; he

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still oppressed them, and they still muttered Curses and Threats against him all the while, in vain calling for, and expecting Relief from their Superiors. By this means the Island became an easy Prey to the first Invader; for 'tis the Disadvantage of all tyrannical Governments. to be ferved from only a Principle of Fear, and not of Love: Slaves may fight, and even conquer; but they can never be supposed to arm with the fame generous Ardour good Subjects do in Defence of their Liberties and Laws. And this was too evident in the prefent Case; for when Sir Antony Shirly, in 1596, made that bold Attack upon Jamaica, he met with fuch a poor Resistance, that with little or no Danger he plundered the Island, burnt St. Jago, and was, while he stay'd, absolute Master of the Whole. The oppressed Planters had little at Stake, and would have been fond of changing Masters. and becoming Subjects to any Prince that would have allowed them to live easy and free: However this was, 'tis certain, had Sir Antony inclined to stay, the English Conquest of Jamaica needed not have been dated from the Days of an Usurper, but from the Reign of a Princess whose happy Government made her Subjects serve with Pleasure, and her Name the Terror of Spain. But he had other Designs, and was obliged to act agreeably to his Orders; he left the Island. and returned to cruize on the Continent of the Spanish West-Indies. When

When the English were gone, the Spaniards began to peep out from their Holes, and return to their old Habitations, which they set about to repair; and being now conscious of the bad Effects of their mutual Distrust, they came to a closer Considence; the Governor relaxed something of his sormer Severity, and the People appeared more easy and content: Several of them were admitted into the governing Part, at least nominally, as Members of his Council; which pleased the Spanish Vanity, and made them think they

were Dons in Reality.

Thus they continued in a feeming good Correspondence, and undisturbed, till about the Year 1635, when Colonel Jackson, with a small Fleet, set out from the Leeward Islands, with a Design upon Jamaica; he had not many Companions, but they were brave, resolute and daring, and such as he knew would not mind the Danger, if they were fure of a rich Purchase. With this Company he landed, which did not exceed 500 Men, and immediately attacked 2000 Spaniards at Passage-Fort. They received him with Courage enough, and for a short time fustained the Fury of the Onset with abundance of Resolution; but that brave Few fought with such Spirit, that the Spaniards began to retire, and at last fled: Several Hundreds were killed in the Engagement and Pursuit. The English, having gained this Ad-

Colonel

Advantage, did not delay a Moment to profecute the good Consequences of the Victory: they marched to St. Jago at about the Distance of six Miles, briskly stormed the Town, and notwithstanding the Opposition they met with, foon entered it Sword in Hand, and pillaged it of every thing that was valuable: The Spoil was divided among the Soldiers, and the Spaniards were glad to agree for a certain Sum, to fave the City from being burnt; which they foon paid, and the brave Colonel retreated to his Ships without the least Disturbance, having, in all this Expedition, lost no more than Forty Men.

But these Visits of the English were only Presages of one more solemn; for a few Years after, it fell intirely into English Hands. The crafty Mazarine, having engaged Cromwel to join with France, and turn his Arms against Spain, politickly contrived an Expedition to the West-Indies. The Usurper was too quick-fighted not to perceive (whatever might be Mazarine's Designs) the Project was not only good, but likely to fucceed, and tend to the Advantage of the Nation: He therefore fitted out a fine Fleet, with a View of conquering Hispaniola, aboard of which were shipped Two thousand old Cavaliers, and as many of Oliver's Army; besides which vast Numbers voluntarily lifted themselves, expecting to become rich by the Spoils of the Spaniard.

Colonel Venables and Admiral Penn were jointly entrusted with the Command of the Fleet and Army, who had particular Orders to call at Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands, and there take in more Forces; for it was not to be imagined but every Colony would chearfully contribute to an Expedition, which they themselves would be such vast Gainers by: Nor was the Protector deceived in this Thought; for no less than 1300 joined them at the Leeward Islands, and the Colony of Barbadoes supplied them with every thing which they wanted; and the Bait was fo tempting, that many Hundreds went along from that Island, expecting to reap a golden Harvest: Indeed, never did the American Seas carry a finer Army: Success was thought to be fure, and nothing could have prevented it, but the Mismanagement of some who were Chief in the Expedition. They had a welltrained, well-provided, and complete Body of Men, commanded by Officers of Note. who had distinguished themselves by their Courage and Conduct in the Civil War; fuch as Colonel Doyly, Colonel Haynes, Colonel Butler, Colonel Raymund, and a great many others, that were indisputably fit to lead an Army, had it been to fight for the Empire of the World.

On the 13th of April 1655, the Fleet made Land at Hispaniola, and discovered the Town of St. Domingo: A Council of War

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was held; and, pursuant to the Resolutions taken, 7000 Foot, a Troop of Horse, and three Days Provision were landed: But the Spaniards were before apprised of the Design, and in good Condition to receive them. In a Word, after a short Engagement, Venables was obliged to retreat, our Forces were deseated, and ingloriously left to straggle, and be cut to Pieces: They got mostly to the Ships; but the brave Colonel Haynes, and a great many private Men, sell in the Field of Battle.

This unhappy Defeat, by whatever Causes brought about, made the Commanders give up every Thought of Success; they saw the Spaniards too well fortified, and, in every respect, in a Condition to oppose them; therefore they forthwith resolved to make a Descent upon Jamaica, where they arrived the third of May. The Generals landed their Men, and marched directly to St. Jago, the Capital of the Island, resolving to storm the Place; and to prevent the same Fate they had at Hispaniola, by the Cowardice of the Soldiers, Proclamation was made, that he who faw his Fellow run, should shoot him. Something of this kind was necessary; for the Soldiers were become quite heartless and dispirited by their late ill Success; and 'tis thought on good Grounds, that had the Chiefs in this Expedition known a way how to excuse their Conduct to Cromwell, they would fcarce

scarce have adventured to attack Jamaica. But in the Circumstances in which the Island then was, no Place could be more proper for an eafy Conquest; the Spaniards had not the least Information of their Defign, or so much as of the Defeat given the English at Hispaniola, and were in no Condition to oppose an Army of 10,000 Men; for so many they still were. In short, every Circumstance concurred to effect the Revolution which at this time happened. The English marched boldly up to St. Jago, with Intent to storm it; but the cautious Governor, feeing his own Weakness, and the Enemy's Strength, and that there was no possible Means of saving it, with a great deal of Art defired to capitulate upon Terms. The English granted his Request, and in the mean time the Spaniards spun out the Time of treating, all the while removing their best Effects and Treasures to the Woods and Places of Security; and the more to amuse the English, they furnished the Army with fresh Provisions, and other Necessaries; and likewise made many agreeable Presents to Mrs. Venables, who had attended her Husband in this Expedition; which had fuch good Effects on the doating uxorious General, that he never suspected the double Defign of the Spanish Governor till it was too late; for after they had difposed of their Effects, and conveyed them to fuch Places where the English could never find

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find them out, they retired to the Mountains, and left the English a naked Town to possess, where they found fine Houses without Inhabitants or Goods; which was a terrible Difappointment to an Army who expected Plunder, and had been balked already. unexpected Misfortune ruffled the Spirits of the English, and they refolved on a cruel Revenge. Several Parties were detached to go in Quest of the Spaniards; but the' they had all the Inclination in the World, yet their Searches proved entirely vain; for being unacquainted with the Country or the Passes, instead of proving useful by detecting their Places of Retreat, they returned fickly and dispirited; and had it not been for a Piece of bad Policy amongst the Spaniards themfelves, they might have been fecure, till fuch time as the neighbouring Colonies could have fent to their Assistance, and forced the English to dislodge: For I am well affured from the Son of one that was concerned in the Conquest, who had the Relation from his Father, who died but a few Years ago, that the English began to be in prodigious Streights. The rich Treasures they had promised themselves, were now no more to be thought of; their Courage was decay'd, and they had hardly Hopes to feed on; befides, their Number diminished daily, and the poor way of Living they were obliged to take up with, did not at all fuit with the English Genius

Genius or Temper. In these pressing Circumstances it was deliberated, if it were not proper to desert a Place where so little was to be got, and fuch certain Perils run. They thought the Spaniards, without Doubt, would arm a sufficient Force from the nearest Settlements, transport them to Jamaica; and expel them with as much Ease as they had lately defeated them before St. Domingo, and they were now in worse Circumstances to fustain the Attack, than they were before: They could not think the proud Governors, who were elated with their former Success against them, would now tamely bear they should expel a Spanish Colony, or allow them quietly to possess a Place which once owned the Catholick King for its Sovereign; and if this should be the Case, they saw it impossible, with an Army weak, fickly and difpirited, to make good their Ground. On the other hand, they did not well know how to excuse their Conduct to the Protector at home. They were fenfible they had been guilty of the groffest Mismanagement, and well knew the stern Temper of Cromwell; and that if ever they hoped to return, it behoved them to attempt fomething that might wipe off the foul Stain of their former bad Conduct and Difgrace. While their Minds were thus agitated, and the Army on the very Point of beginning a Mutiny, the unwary Spaniards discovered themselves by fending

sending a Party for Intelligence, who happening to meet a few English, they engaged them, were beat, and traced to their Places of Retreat. This welcome Adventure inspired every one with fresh Hopes, and new Courage; they faw again the tempting Bait, and were once more possessed with the gay View of the Riches of the Spaniards, as a Reward for all the Toils they had undergone. This good Disposition of the private Men was encouraged by their Leaders; they thought it a fignal Providence, and were refolved to improve this happy Turn of Affairs, which seemed to point out a Way, whereby they might be extricated out of all their Difficulties; they chearfully led them to the Spaniards Haunts, who as briskly received them. Several petty Encounters happened, which for the most part were to the Disadvantage of the English, because as soon as the Spaniards found themselves pressed, they retired by degrees to these Fastnesses, with which they were well acquainted; and there being secure, could fire upon the English; and before they could climb to reach them, sculked to another Place of equal Security. This made them afraid they should find the Conquest tedious, if not impracticable; but having in this time discovered a great many valuable Effects, the Minds of the Soldiers were footh'd and made easy. They had now likewise got Plenty of fresh Provisions; for they had found the Savannahs.

Savannabs, to which the Spaniards had driven their Cattle; and this was the greatest Relief they could possibly have wished in their present declining Circumstances: Whereupon they gave themselves up to indulge every Appetite, and seemed to forget their former Hardships. But while they were thus merry, they had the melancholy Account, that several Hundreds of their Men had been attack'd under Covert of the Night, and entirely cut off by the Spaniards. It seems this Misfortune happened by means of a Spanish Slave, who had deserted to the English, and was employ'd by them as a Guide. Fellow was entertained by the unfuspecting Generals, as one on whom they might confide; they used him well, and promised him large Rewards; and indeed for a while they had no room to call his Honesty in Question; for he had discovered several times the Defigns of the Enemy; and being well acquainted with their Haunts, had oft stole among them in the Night-time, and discover'd their Resolves, which he again faithfully communicated to the English; but whether this was only a Bait to render him less suspected, that he might more easily compass this last Piece of Villainy, or whether he was tired with his new Masters, and found again a returning Love for the old, and was willing to make his Peace by doing some notable Service, he led the English into a Valley

Valley or Bottom, furrounded on every Side by Hills, and near to which he knew there was a strong Body of Spaniards; to whom having before found Means to communicate his Defign, they had taken care to fecure the Place in fuch a manner, that it was impossible for almost any to escape the intended Destruction. Accordingly the English, being decoyed by their faithless Guide, came without the least Suspicion of Danger; and finding the Bottom convenient for their Purpose, resolved to lodge there till next Morning. They laid afide their Arms; fome began to make merry, but most to sleep, having been all fatigued by a tedious March the Day In this careless manner did they rebefore. pose, but were soon alarmed with sudden Shouts, and Vollies of Shot from all Sides; they were attack'd by superior Numbers, and had scarce time, in the Consternation they were in, to get to their Arms; and were cruelly butcher'd and cut to Pieces, Quarter being given, and not a Life spared, except a very few, who being more resolute than the rest, bravely sought their Way; and tho' opposed by an armed Multitude, cut a Passage to themselves, and escaped the Fury of the Carnage; among whom was the Gentleman's Father from whom I have this Relation.

This fatal Adventure gave a new Damp to their Spirits, and they saw the Necessity of F 2 using

using the greatest Precaution. After the Spaniards had quitted the Island, the Fellow who had betrayed this Party, fell again into the Hands of the English, who used him as his Treachery deferved. Thus on both Sides they were constrained to be on their Guard; but after a few Months, the luxurious Spaniards began to be tired of their hard Lodging and Fatigues, finding the Difference betwixt the Ease and Plenty of a Town, and the Difficulties of sculking on Mountains and Precipices; between the Sweets of Peace, and the Hardships of War; and therefore began in good earnest to think of quitting the Place: They saw most of their Settlements ruined, themselves abandon'd to Despair, no Help likely to arrive; and therefore, with one Consent, agreed to transport themselves in large Canoes to Cuba, at about the Distance of Eighteen Leagues; which they foon did, and left only a few Mulattoes and Negroes, on whose Fidelity they could most depend, with strict Charge to harass the English, and by frequent Excursions to prevent their proceeding to fettle; and at the same time promised they would soon return, with sufficient Force to expel the Invaders. These Promises, tho' they served their Purpose for some time, keeping these Wretches in their Duty, yet afterwards proved a great Disadvantage to them; for after their Return, with an infufficient Force to take the Field, and in a manner . manner bare and helpless, these were the first

that deserted to the English.

During the short Space of their Absence, little happened worth Notice; both Parties kept pretty quiet; but it seems the Viceroy of Mexico by no means relished their quitting the Island; and tho' he had been backward hitherto in his Supplies, now promifed to assist them with a considerable Force. Deluded by these Hopes, the Fugitives again came to the Island, dispersing themselves in the North and North-east Parts, where they waited for the promised Succours: But after they had long looked for them, only 500 Men arrived, who feeing their destitute Condition, and how impracticable it seemed to dislodge the Conquerors, refused to act offenfively, and retired to a Place called St. Cherreras, where they fortified themselves, and waited for an Opportunity to quit a Place, which they now perceived to be irrecoverably loft; for by this time the English, having had some Rest, had extended their Settlements. and poffeffed themselves of all the South and South-east Parts of the Island. A Regiment was fettled at Port Morant to plant there, and others in feveral other Places thro' the Island, over whom Colonel D'Oyley was left Governor, with between Two and Three thousand Land-Forces, and about Twenty Men of War, commanded by Vice-Admiral Goodson; who by his wise Management, so F +3 difdisposed Matters, that the new Settlers could not be attacked in any Place without receiv-

ing speedy Assistance from others.

Mean time Penn and Venables returned to England, where they arrived about the Middle of September, and were justly taken into Custody, and imprisoned, for their fcandalous Mismanagements, which reflected fo much Dishonour upon the English Nation as would have been irreparable, had not Jamaica made some Amends for the Disgrace, tho' Chance, more than Defign, brought that into their Hands.

The wife Cromwell faw presently the Advantages which this new Acquisition would bring to the Nation, (such Advantages, as, duly improved, might humble Spain, and make her tremble; but of that at another time) and therefore foon fitted out a new Squadron; and difliking Colonel D'Oyley, because a Cavalier, sent Major Sedgwick in his Room, and appointed him Governor of Jamaica: But before this, D'Oyley, who still acted a Part that was bold and magnanimous, had discovered the Retreats and Fortifications of the Spaniards, and marched to attack them at the Head of a good Body of Forces. The Spaniards on the other hand had received considerable Reinforcements, and fortified several Places for their Defence at Ria Novo in St. Mary's, the Remains of which are still extant; and being well furnished with

with Arms and Ammunition; conceived Hopes of retrieving their Losses, and possesfing again what had been violently wrested from them: But the brave D'Oyley attacked them in such a brisk manner, that notwithstanding they were twice his Number, and well intrenched, yet they loft Ground, and in a few Days were quite defeated. The Bravery of the English was very remarkable on this Occasion; they regained their former Honour, and now, that they had Estates to fight for, distinguished themselves in a manner worthy of Oliver's Soldiers. The Spanish Slaves who had deferted, did likewife good Service, many of them fighting with the greatest Courage; and being sure of an immediate and cruel Death, should they fall into the Hands of their old Masters, did all that was in their Power against them. Colonel D'Oyley thereupon rewarded some of those, and declared others free, particularly one, who was observed to have a more than ordinary Forwardness, and had, with his own Hands, killed several Spaniards. It seems this Fellow had been Slave to one of the most confiderable amongst them, and loved a young Negro to Distraction. He had several Children by her, and lived in an uninterrupted Course of Happiness, (if the State of Slaves can afford fuch) when the old Fox his Master barbarously tore the fond Creature from his Arms, and forced her to comply F 4 with

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with his own villainous Lusts: The Husband called on every Power to avenge the Rape; but his Passion was ordered to be allay'd by the Severities of the Whip; he underwent the Punishment, but waited Revenge; and having found Opportunity from the late Disturbances, got an Interview with his once adored Wife, and foon decoyed her to some Distance, where he told her his Defigns of Vengeance, and swore, he still loved her with a too fincere Passion, not to be fenfible of what he had loft: But as their Happiness was now for ever past, and the former Days of Love and Purity could not return, he would not live to fee her another's, when she could not be his; for, however innocent her Intention, he never could take an Adulteress to his Arms; and therefore, closely embracing her, plunged a Poniard to the Heart of the unhappy Creature: Thus, fays he, I exert the Right of a Husband; and after a few Caresses, and seeing her breathe her last, he fled to the English, and in all their Engagements did them eminent Service, particularly in this last, where the Sight of his former Tyrant having inflamed his Defire of Revenge, he flew to the Place where he fought, and foon laid the vile Adulterer at his Feet. Many others did he also sacrifice to his Revenge, and behaved fo gallantly, that Colonel D'Oyley took particular Notice of him, and without determining on the Justness.

of his Motives, rewarded him nobly, made him free, and gave him a small Piece of Ground, which ever after he lived upon in Quiet, but with a Thoughtfulness and Melancholy that he could never conquer. This brave Fellow lived to a very great Age, and died in the Year 1708. He had also a Son who did good Service against the French in 1695, and several times exposed his Life in the Pursuit of the rebellious Negroes.

The Spaniards being thus forced from their strong Entrenchments, the Colonel took care to demolish them in such a manner, that they could not be soon or easily rebuilt; and having several Days pursued and harassed them, taken many Prisoners, and all that they had which was valuable, returned sull of Glory; while, to complete the Missortunes of the Enemy, another large Body of them met with the same Fate at Point-Pedro, where they had intrenched themselves, and were not only defeated, but mostly cut to Pieces.

These repeated Successes of the English made the despairing Spaniards now resolve in good earnest, for ever to bid adieu to a Place which they saw irrecoverably lost; rather than wander in the Woods, and be exposed on one hand to the Fury of the English, and on the other to the Miseries of Want. The English had notice of their Design, but thought it Prudence to overlook it; and therefore allowed them quietly

to embark with their Wives, Children, and what little Treasure was left them, and abandon Jamaica for ever to the English.

Thus the Bravery and good Conduct of Colonel D'Oyley, in a little time, fecured the Island, and made its former Lords, like so many Fugitives, defert it. But the' this great End was fortunately effected, they had yet many Difficulties to struggle with; for the Negroes who had still retained their Faith to the Spaniards, finding themselves at Liberty, their Masters gone, and fearing the English would treat them after a barbarous manner, for the Mischiess they had done them in the late Disputes, erected a kind of Government among themselves, and resolved to maintain their Ground to the last. They killed the Governor whom the Spaniards had appointed over them, and elected a new one from among themselves: And having agreed to some Regulations, which were necessary to keep them united, began to think on Ways whereby they might best provide Subsistence. Some in the remote unsuspected Places, fell to planting Maiz, Cocoas, and other Necessaries; but the greatest Part went in Bodies, and hunted and robbed: This was fatal to them; for the active D'Oyley immediately gave Orders to purfue them; and having attacked them in loose straggling Parties, cut off a great many, among whom were the chief that had opposed their submitting to the English: The rest,

rest, being struck with a Panick, and dispirited, began to despair of maintaining themselves any longer; and therefore sent, in the humblest manner, to Colonel D'Oyley, and offered to submit on Terms of Pardon. The Colonel amused them a little, the more to enhance the Value of granting their Defires, but foon accepted of the easy Conditions; they returned well fatisfied, and acquainted their Fellows of the Success which they had: On which their Captain, and a Company of feveral Hundreds along with him, came and laid down their Arms, and were well received by the Colonel: But tho' the great Strength of the Negroes was thus broken, many still obstinately refused to submit; but these were likewise mostly destroyed, by employing the Slaves to hunt them down, who, upon the Promise of a Reward, chearfully undertook that Service; and well knowing their Places of Retreat, seldom returned. without having done them fome confiderable Damage.

They chose this Method of testifying their Fidelity to their new Masters, which indeed was the most acceptable that could be found out; for the English were themselves, by this time, become perfectly weary of pursuing a Parcel of Robbers, and it was not without very imminent Danger when they attempted it: For besides that they were unacquainted with the Woods, and Places of Retreat; in

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fuch a fultry Climate, the Fatigue of climbing the Precipices, and the very Load of their Arms, were almost intolerable to an European Constitution: The Slaves could not therefore do them a more agreeable Piece of Service; and they behaved so well, that Numbers of those that stood out were daily destroyed; others found an Opportunity of transporting themselves to Cuba; and the few that were still in Arms were now so inconsiderable, that they gave no Apprehension of any further Danger: But happy had it been for these Conquerors, and their Posterity, had they improved this favourable Opportunity to extirpate them quite! For tho' at that Time they might appear below Notice, yet it was easy to foresee, while any Numbers had a Place of Security, and maintained themfelves, they would increase, and be joined by others, who, on the least Disgust, or imagined Severity, might run off from their Masters: And this has proved to be true in the Event; for they have increased to such a Degree, as many times to make the Island tremble, and employ its utmost Force against them. Slaves who desert their Masters, still find there a fure Retreat, and their Numbers are now computed at feveral Thousands: The feverest Laws have been enacted against them, the greatest Rewards offered to him that kills any of them, and the choicest Bodies of Men

Men have been sent against them, who have mostly been unsuccessful, and returned with more Loss on their own Side, than to that of the Run-aways. Their Rebellion is moreover a constant Expence to the Government; for besides the Charge it is put to in building of Forts and Breast-works to prevent their Excursions, it has always several Parties in constant Pay in Pursuit of them; so that since they first began to be formidable, the Island has been at several Millions of Expences, and may be at as much more before they will be reduced, if they don't alter the

Method of attacking them.

I have heard, in this Place, that it was much contrary to D'Oyley's Opinion, that they should be left undestroy'd; that he urged the strongest Reasons, and prophesied, in a manner, what would be the fatal Consequences of fuch a gross Overfight; but he was opposed by the Colonels Raymund and Tyjon, who about this time began to be factious and popular, fo that, brave as he was, he durst not oppose his Judgment to theirs, when they had the Soldiers almost intirely at Command; and they being already fatigued with a tedious War, were glad to be at Ease, and thought D'Oyley's Proposal was only a Piece of Ill-nature, and a Defign to keep them still employed, without allowing them the Fruit of their Toil, which they had fought so well to obtain. These were popular Rea-

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so he was obliged to content himself with letting them know how justly his Opinion was grounded, what might be the Consequences in time, and how unsecure they themselves were, when they had such Villains at hand to come like Thieves at unwares, cut their Throats, and plunder their Plantations.

And now I have traced the History of this Island from its first Discovery to this Revolution, when it fell into the conquering Hands of the English; and the' the common Abstracts we have of the Transactions of that Period be dark, yet they are all which we have to depend upon. I have however endeavoured to supply several Desects, making use of the Advantages I enjoy of making my Collections in the Island itself, where I have Access to converse with several whose Fathers were concerned in the Conquest, or settled in a very few Years after. In my next I shall continue my Relation; but before I conclude this, I must observe, That where-ever Subjects are oppressed, that Colony or State is nigh to Ruin. A Prince or Governor, that deprives Men of their Liberties, is fure of being curfed and hated, and no Ties are capable to balance the natural Defire, which every Man has of being eafy, free and secure in his Property. While this is kept facred, the Subjects are equally concerned

cerned with the Prince, and will defend themselves against every Invader; but where they are trampled upon, Allegiance is in vain to be expected, and the first fair Opportu-nity, the general Bent of a Nation will discover itself, and favour a Revolution. This feems to be the Cafe, where-ever Revolutions have happened. And indeed 'tis scarce possible, that a foreign Enemy should conquer a free Country, where the Governors are beloved, and Property is fecured to the Subjects; for rather than they will be enflaved, they will chuse to be destroy'd; and when they come to engage for all that is held valuable among Men, 'tis not every Army or Power will triumph over the generous Fire which warms their Breafts, and inspires them with true Courage. In what I have related above, you may easily see how mean and dastardly the Spaniards behaved: And what was it owing to, but only this? That they fought with the Spirit of Slaves, and not of Freemen: They were oppressed; their Governor invaded their Property, deprived them of the fweet Returns of their industrious Toil; and the Consequence was, when the Enemy appeared, they deserted his Desence, and had not Life to oppose the brisk Onsets of that braye Nation who knew the Bleffings of Liberty. We may see, when their Governors rélax'd of their Severity, they too behaved proportionably better; and that their Trade, their

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their Wealth and Happiness increased, as they were confidered with a more favourable Eye by their stern Superiors. In short, this brief Narrative is an Instance, and undeniable Proof, That Liberty and Property are the great Motives that induce Subjects to be faithful, or to fight for the Glory and Advantage of their Prince; and that an Encroachment on these is a sure Sign of a fickly State, a State that is on the Decline, and

haftening to be undone.

Heavy Taxes may support standing Armies; but the generous Turn of a free People will, in spight of these, shew itself; and, when it does, that Prince may tremble, who used either the one or the other Means to enslave them. The deluded King James trusted to as fine an Army as ever encamped on the British Plains, and modelled too after his own Heart; yet how little Security was this, when Oppression roused the English Spirits to affert their Freedom!

I am,

SIR,

Yours, &c.



LETTER IV.

SIR,



SHALL now profecute my Defign, and acquaint you with what has happened most remarkable fince the Government fell into the Hands of the English, who having

expelled the Spaniards, and reduced, in a great measure, every Enemy that opposed their Defigns, began to plant with great Success and Industry; for the Government at home took care to fend them all necessary Supplies; and they daily increased to such a Degree, that in a short time they became a

powerful Colony.

The advantageous Accounts given of the Island, which were perhaps industriously inlarged beyond their Truth, invited many who had fuffered amidst the Fury of a Civil War, to retire from the Distractions at home, in Hopes of more Quiet abroad. This Humour was encouraged by the crafty Cromwell, who, by this means, rid his Hands of great Numbers, who were Enemies to his Usurpation; and, at the same time, he knew they they could never become so powerful there, as to put him under any Apprehensions, especially as he took care to appoint a Governor simply attached to his Interests, and in whom he could confide.

While every thing appeared thus promifing, all had like to have been thrown into Confusion, by means of a dangerous Mutiny that happened among the Soldiers. The Colonels Raymund and Tyfon were Two Gentlemen who adhered to the Protector, and had a mighty Influence on the Soldiers. D'Oyley, on the other hand, was an old brave Cavalier; and on that account, was not fo agreeable to these Men, who had fought and triumphed with the ambitious Oliver: They ever looked upon him with a kind of Distaste; and tho' he had led them on with Glory and Success, yet they could not be reconciled to a Person, whom they knew, in his Heart, to be an Enemy to their beloved Cromwell. Therefore, on all Occasions, they shewed a strong Attachment to Raymund and Tyson, who finding the Disposition of these Veterans so favourable to their ambitious Defigns, resolved to make Tools of them, in favour of their own Schemes, and to ruin D'Oyley. The good Reception which that brave Gentleman had lately given to feveral professed Cavaliers, who came over with a Defign to fettle, afforded these restless Spirits a new Topick to persuade the Soldiers, that D'Oyley had finister

Force

finister Designs; that he encouraged so many of the Royal Party, with no other View, but, when he found himself strong enough, to expel them as Republicans, and declare for the King. This, joined with other Circumstances, soon inflamed their uneasy Minds; it was therefore agreed, that D'Oyley should be feized, and Raymund affume the Government. Matters were almost brought to a Crisis, when the whole Design came to Light. D'Oyley immediately used every proper Precaution for his own Security, and that of the Island; and being resolved to strike boldly at first, that the Mutineers might see they had one to deal with, of a too daring Spirit to bear Infults, seized Raymund and Tyjon forthwith, tried them by a Court-Martial, where they were condemned, and, in Consequence of their Sentence, both shot to Death. mund expressed no Concern, but died with a haughty kind of Resolution. Tyson behaved in a manner more becoming, and feemed penitent for the Part he had acted.

This vigorous Step was sufficient to convince the Mutineers, they had a Man to deal with, whose Courage and Resolution was not easily shaken; and being now without a Head, they were in a Consternation, and knew not how to behave; for they were afraid of the just Resentment of their Superiors, and, at the same time, were at a Loss how to proceed to secure themselves. Open

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Force was now impracticable, and private Fraud not to be thought on; therefore they kept quiet, till D'Oyley, having difgraced fome, and flightly punished others, made their Apprehensions cease, and every thing

again became settled.

A little after this, Major Sedgwick, who, fome time before, as I mentioned in my former, had been appointed Governor by Cromwell, arrived, to the great Satisfaction of those of that Faction, and the Grief of almost every other on the Island, who were mighty well satisfied with D'Oyley's Management: And indeed the Situation they were in, required a Governor of his bold and active Temper; else the Island had never been preferved from the Commotions, which jarring Factions always cause in a Country. But the good Major foon died. I hear of no particular Acts of Government done by him; and indeed his Life was too short to allow him an Opportunity of doing any thing confiderable; the Heat of the Climate, and Alteration of the Air, and way of living, cut him off in a few Weeks after his Arrival.

D'Oyley again resumed the Government, with the Good-will of the sar better Part of the Inhabitants, and behaved in such an agreeable, yet resolute manner, that he was not more beloved than feared: But tho' his good Qualifications rendered him every way sit to govern, and had been of such Advantage

to the Settlers, yet Oliver still looked upon him as one unfit for his Purpose: He entertained a fecret Difgust, and could by no means relish, that one of the Royal Party should govern an English Colony; and therefore the Protector, as soon as he received the News of Sedgwick's Death, fent to Colonel Brayne in Scotland, who was a Creature of his own, and intirely devoted to his Interests, with express Orders to ship off a Thousand Men for Port-Patrick, and sail for Jamaica, where he was to take upon him the Government. That Body of Men was thought fufficient to balance the Number of Royalists, who had transported themselves to Jamaica, especially, as they were to be led and directed by one whom the Usurper could intirely trust: But Colonel Brayne met the same Fate as Sedgwick had done before him; he got to the Place, and began to exercise his new Government with abundance of Rigour, when he too was fnatched off on a sudden; and his Death once again restored D'Oyley, and every thing, to its first Situation.

This Gentleman still continued to rule with the greatest Good-will of the People, and Satisfaction even of those who before were his Enemies. Oliver died soon after this, and the Rump, being restored, confirmed D'Oyley in his Government, who kept it till after the Restauration; and never Governor since acted such a Part for the Good of the Island:

It was by his Courage and Conduct the Spaniards were expelled, and the Negroes fubdued; it was by his Prudence and Care that the Army was separated, and set to different Parts to plant, which preserved it from Mutinies; it was owing to his great Spirit, that Raymund and Tyfon did not fucceed in their bad Defigns: By his Example the People were taught to be industrious; he exacted no Taxes, lived on what his Plantation produced, appeared, in private, like one of themselves; and yet, when Occafion required, exerted the Courage of the Soldier, the Prudence of the Statesman, and Steadiness of the Governor: He managed a Rabble, (for I can call them no better) brought them to Order, and made them afraid to disobey: He had a warm Side to the Royal Party, and encouraged the loyal Sufferers, who retired for Protection; yet he never treated any of the opposite Faction with the least Scorn, nor did they ever feel a Hardship beyond what every one else felt at the same time. The Laws he governed them by were purely Military, and there was Men themselves, and nothing but the strict and hard Hand of Discipline could preserve them quiet: And besides, they were not yet yet out of Danger of another Attack from the Spaniards: 'Twas expected, they would have been obliged to fight for what they had:

had; for the Spaniards threatned an Invasion; and had the Island been governed by one less steady and courageous than D'Oyley, no doubt they would have attempted it. All these made the Severity of Discipline absolutely requisite, to secure the Good of the Whole. In short, D'Oyley was one of the greatest and best Governors that ever was set over any Province; and no Colony could possibly be happier than famaica was, while ruled by such an able Hand; but after the Restoration, this brave Gentleman was recalled, and the Lord Windsor sent in his Place.

During his Time little happened worth relating. Civil Law began to be used, but in a very wretched manner; for the first Planters understood how to use their Arms better than to grace the Justice-chair. The Common Law was little known, and the Acts of Parliament less. However his Excellency took care to pick out the most knowing, and establish Courts of Justice for the Discharging of private Right: Plain Good-sense was the Rule of their Decisions, and any Cause above their Reach was carried to the Governor, who arbitrarily decided the Affair. Things were in this indifferent Situation, yet these Times are extolled and preferred to the present, when they have every Plea confidered according to the known Laws of England, or the particular Statutes of their Affemblies. G 4

Assemblies. There was a Necessity, in their State, to consider their own Circumstances; and, as they varied from the English Subjects, it behoved them to think of certain Regulations peculiar to their Situation: Thefe, they tell you, were agreed on at private Cabals, where the most considerable Planters met, and in a friendly manner, over a Bowl, confidered what was fit to be done; they did not then elect Representatives, or had an Affembly of their own chufing; and yet fo happy were they in fatisfying the Minds of the People, that their Regulations were never complained of. Indeed the Governor struck out what he thought improper, and perhaps added other Things, which fometimes were not agreeable to these Law-makers Inclination; but upon the Whole, the Island was in a very flourishing Condition in the Lord Windfor's Government; for by this time the Buccaniers had begun the Trade of Pyrating, and made Money plenty. What likewise contributed not a little to the Advantage of the Colony, was the Removal of a great many Gentlemen of Estates from other Islands, who settled here. They knew the Fertility of the Soil would make large Returns for their Pains.; and therefore many, but chiefly Sir Thomas Moddiford, who before this had acquired a vast Estate in Bardadoes, lest that Place, and settled in Jamaica, where he set about Improvements, and shewed the Planters

To him succeeded Sir Thomas Moddiford, who indeed brought the new Settlement to its greatest Persection; for by this time there appeared a kind of Emulation among the Planters, and each strove who should improve his Lands to the best Advantage: And the Money being now plenty, by reason of the many rich Prizes which were daily carried in here, and taken from the Spaniards, they became wealthy, and had wherewithal to purchase Slaves.

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Slaves, and other Necessaries, which they failed not to do; and by this means, in a little time, the Face of Things became quite altered.

The Island not only became richer, but in Consequence of that, more powerful; and soon acquired a sufficient Number of Inhabitants, which enabled it not only to defend, but even made it terrible to its Neighbours; for in the old Records, we find the Estimate of Families and Inhabitants taken at this time, on account of a supposed Danger of a Spanish Invasion, to stand thus:

	Families.	Inhabitants.
Port-Royal Parish	500	3500
St. Catharine	658	6270
St. John -	83	996
St. Andrew -	194	1552
St. David -	80	960
St. Thomas	59	590
Clarendon -	143	1430
St. George,		
St. Mary,		
St. Anne,		2000
St. James,		
St. Elizabeth.		
	1717	17208

These were all the Parishes into which the Island was then divided; and by this Account

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it is furprifing to observe how suddenly this Colony became potent; and yet more strange to confider, that from that time till now,

they are not 20000 increased.

But the chief Reason of this Increase seems to be owing to the great Refort of the Privateers, who made Jamaica a kind of Home: This was no fooner known, but People of desperate Fortunes, and those who could not endure the unactive State in which England then was, transported themselves hither; fome invited by advantageous Prospects, settled, and others went a rambling on the Seas, in Search of what Prizes they could find; and indeed they had fuch furprifing Success, as will perhaps scarce gain Belief in succeeding Ages. Had their Courage and Conduct been employ'd in supporting a better Cause, their Fame might have equalled the Glory of any, either of antient or modern Heroes; but the indelible Stain of Pyracy fullies their great Actions, and makes them looked upon as Disturbers of Mankind, and Villains, who are only famous for Murder and Robbery.

However just this Sentiment may be, I can't help giving some of their surprising Attempts a Place in this Relation; and I'm sure, a great many useful Reslections will occur to your Mind, on reading an Abstract of their Lives: You'll fee how far natural Courage will lead a Man; how far the Love of Gain will excite a Spirit of such a Stamp; and what Havock Idleness and Slavery make in a Country where they prevail; for had the filly dastardly Spaniards known as well how to manage the Sword as to dally with a Mistress, neither Morgan, nor any of the rest, had gained such Advantages, or established an immortal Glory at the Expence of their Character.

Jamaica, as I have said, was the common Refort of the Pyrates; there they were fure of Protection, and whatever Necessaries they wanted; the Governors and Planters encouraged their Expeditions, and took care to supply their Vessels. In Return, their ill-got Riches were there squandered away. I can't tell if it was bad Policy (altho' it was certainly bad Morality) to encourage these Desperadoes. In the Infancy of that Colony they were under perpetual Apprehensions of an Attack from Spain: They had private Disturbances among themselves, and several times they were likely to fall into the greatest Difficulties; besides, they had few whom they could depend upon, in case of an Invasion. The old Grudge betwixt the Royalists and Cromwellians remained, and after the Restoration it was more open than ever; for few of the first Conquerors were allowed Places of Trust or Profit; and this could not fail to exasperate those brave Spirits, who had ventured their Lives in the Conquest: They be-

became discontented, and the Governors soon perceived they were not to be depended upon; and as they were the only Party that understood the Art of War, they could not mis of being formidable to a raw undisciplined Few, who had lately come over, and thro' a too partial Favour were encouraged. This seemed to make the Entertainment of the Pyrates necessary on a double Account: First, That their Power and Courage might balance the others; and next, That the rich Prizes they daily daily brought in, should be a Lure, and turn the Thoughts of these Republicans to the Methods of acquiring Riches. And indeed it proved a good Piece of Policy; for they no fooner found their Account in joining with the Privateers, than they forgot their old Murmurs, acquiesced in the Administration, and in a short time all Distinction of Parties was quite loft.

But to trouble you no further with these Conjectures, I shall proceed to give a short Account of some of the most noted of these Gentlemen of Fortune, whom Glory and Success still attended, and whose Memories are revered to this Day in a Place which shared so largely in the Riches they unjustly

acquired.

The first who became famous in Jamaica, was Bartholomew, a Portuguese, a bold daring desperate Fellow: He set out with a very sew Hands from Jamaica, the whole Number

not exceeding Thirty: His Veffel was only a poor leaky Scooner, (which is a small kind of Sloop they use for transporting Sugars from the distant Parts of the Island by Sea to Port-Royal) mounted with four Iron Guns: His Crew were all brave, and could be depended upon. They cruized for feveral Days on the Coasts, but finding no Prize, steered their Course to Cape de Corriente in Cuba. Here he met a fine Ship of Twenty Guns and Seventy Men, bound to the Havannah from Maracaibo and Cartagena: Tho' the Odds were fo great, he refolved to attack her, and having in a few Words encouraged his Affociates, begun the Engagement; but notwithstanding their Bravery and Resolution, the Numbers of the Enemy prevailed, and they were obliged to retire with Loss; but having come up with her again, he renewed the Attack, and performed his Part so well, that at last she was glad to furrender. This Ship proved an excellent Relief; they quitted their Scooner, and took to the Prize; but contrary Winds hindering their Return to Jamaica, they directed their Course to Cape St. Antony, on the West-side of Cuba, where they resolved to furnish themselves with Water, for which at that time they had great Occasion.

But in their Way thither they unexpectedly fell in with three Guarda Costa's, bound from New-Spain to the Havannah: They saw there

was no Possibility of Escape, and after a smart Engagement were taken and made Prisoners.

This sudden Change of Fortune dashed their Hopes, and depressed their Spirits exceedingly; for the Prize they had taken, had on board 120,000 Weight of Cacao, 70,000 Pieces of Eight; yet they still appeared rather fullen than melancholy, and rather angry than dejected. Mean time a Storm separated the Vessels, and after they had drove for several Days, came at last to Campechie, where the Pyrates were known. The Magistrates sent the proper Officers to fecure them, and without much Ceremony or Form, condemned poor Bartholomew to be hanged. This Sentence was intended to be executed next Day; and, in the mean time, left he should escape, they kept him aboard of the Ship. In this critical Juncture he provided two large earthen Jars, and began to contrive his Liberty, which he effected; for in the Night-time, when all was quiet, he stabb'd his Keeper, and having tied the empty Jars to his Body, jump'd in the Sea, and with some Difficulty got safely ashore. He immediately took Refuge in the Woods, and lived there feveral Days on Herbs, and fuch Fruits as that Wild could afford.

Strict Search was made after him, but to no Purpose; for he had so well concealed himself in the Hollow of a Tree, that they never imagined he was there: However, he saw the Danger he was in, and therefore resolved to get further off. The Place he defigned for was Del Golfo Trifte, Forty Leagues distant from Campechie; but his Circumstances were at this time fo miserable, that had he not been indued with uncommon Courage and Refolution, he durst not have attempted it; for he was almost famished for want of Meat, and reduced to fuch a low Pass, that nothing but his invincible daring Spirit could have supported him. He ventured abroad, but had not got far on his Journey, till he found a large River, which he was obliged to cross: He was a bad Swimmer, and had no Boat; in this Exigency he discovered an old Board, which the Waves had thrown on Shore; from it he struck out the Nails, and whetted some of them with incredible Pains, till they became sharp like a Knife; with these forry Instruments he cut a great many small Boughs off the Trees, and having tied them very neatly together, ventured in this new kind of Vessel to cross the River, which he effected; and after a few Days Travel reached Golfo Trifte, where he was welcomed by a Crew of Pyrates, that . were then in that Bay: He foon made them acquainted with his Misfortunes, and begged their Assistance; he told them, if they would only allow him a Boat, and Twenty Men, he would venture to Campechie, and feek to be revenged on the Spaniards. They willingly granted his Demand, and having got all Necessaries

Necessaries provided, he, with twenty more, well armed and stout, set Sail, and in a short time made Campechie: Finding every thing there quiet, and that they were under no Apprehension of Danger, he resolved to attack the very Ship which had brought him thither a Prisoner: This he soon did, and easily mastered the Crew, (for they were received aboard, without the least Suspicion of their Design) and immediately they seized the Master; the Sailors were unprovided for an Engagement, and easily yielded; the Anchor was weighed directly, and they put out to Sea for fear of being pursued by other Vessels in the Bay.

This happy Success gave the Pyrate a great deal of Pleafure, while he faw himself Master of fuch a fine Veffel, on Board of which he had lately been confined, and condemned to be hanged; besides, she was a vastly rich Prize, having not only aboard the Effects which before were taken from the Pyrates, but a great deal of rich Merchandize besides: And now he proposed to make a good deal at Jamaica. But his Expectations were foon dashed, and all his gay Conceits vanished; for a terrible Storm drove the Ship on the Banks called Jardines, near the Isle of Pinos, on the South-side of Cuba, where she split; the Crew saved themselves with the utmost Difficulty, and at last made Jamaica, where he foon recruited, and went to feek his Fortunes anew. But his Fame being

being obscured by others, who at this time followed the same desperate Trade, we hear

no more of his Life or Actions.

Brafiliano is the next that was famous here: He was by Birth a Dutchman, and being driven from Brafil, when the Portuguese retook that Country from the Dutch West-India Company, he, and a great many others, went in Search of a better Fortune, and having got to Jamaica, saw no way so likely to do it, as by turning Pyrates. Brafiliano foon distinguished himself; he feared nothing, avoided no Danger, and always went upon the most difficult Enterprizes; he still acquitted himself with Honour, and by this means was looked upon as one that was destined to be their Leader. He foon made a Party, and having decoyed a good Number to leave their Captain, he was unanimously chosen in his Place.

They were not long in providing a small Vessel, in which they embarked to seek for new Adventures. In a few Days they came up with a Ship from New-Spain, which, after small Resistance, they took. She proved an excellent Prize, having a vast Quantity of Plate and Silver aboard, which they brought to Jamaica, and soon squandered away in Debauchery.

Their next Voyage proved very unlucky; for a Storm split their Vessel to pieces, and the Pyrates, with a great deal of Dissiculty,

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got to Land in a Canoe, near Campechie: They resolved to direct their Course to Golfo Trifte, it being a Place where they could soonest expect Relief, on account of its being a Haunt of the Pyrates, who use it when they have Occasion for fresh Water. had little Provisions, but they still kept on their Voyage with a Courage and Resolution peculiar to themselves; but in a little time were alarmed with the Sight of a Troop of Spaniards, who were marching that way in Pursuit of them. The Pyrates were only Thirty in all, and the Spaniards 100 well armed and mounted. Brafiliano, no ways discouraged at the Odds, animated his brave Companions to the Charge; and when the Spaniards came within Shot, they took their Aim so well, that every one killed his Man: The Fight continued for a great while with equal Fury on both Sides, but at last the Spamards were put to the Flight, having loft more than half their Number; on the Pyrates Side only Two were killed, and Ten wounded,

After this dangerous Engagement they seized on the Horses, which were scattered about, and made all the Dispatch they could to the Place they had first intended; But as they prosecuted their Journey, they happened to spy a Boat from Campechie, well mann'd, that rode at Anchor, protecting a small Number of Canoes that were employed in landing Wood. Hereupon a Detachment was imme-

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diately

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diately fent to secure her for their Ufe, which they effected with very little Labour. But altho' they had now a Means of transporting themselves from this hostile Climate, they yet wanted Provisions to sustain themselves during the Voyage. To remedy this, they fell to killing their Horses, and having found abundance of Salt in their new Vessels, cured it for Use. On this poor Diet they fed, till they could provide themselves better, which was not long; for they happened, in a few Days, to come up with another Ship bound for Maracaibo, from New-Spain; and having boldly attacked her, forced the Crew to yield, tho' they were more than double their Number, and in every respect well armed: But nothing could withstand the Fury of these Desperadoes; they took the Ship, and committed most horrid Cruelties on the poor Spaniards, torturing them after fuch a manner as is shocking to relate. Here they found a confiderable Quantity of Money, and other valuable Effects, all which were carried to Jamaica, and, according to Custom, wasted in a few Days in Taverns, and Places of Debauchery: Wine and Women drained their Wealth to such a Degree, that in a little time some of them became reduced to Beggary. They have been known to spend 2 or 3000 Pieces of Eight in one Night; and one of them gave a Strumpet 500 to see her naked. They used to buy a Pipe of Wine,

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place it in the Street, and oblige every one. that passed to drink; at other times they would scatter it about them in large Quantities, thinking it excellent Diversion to wet the Ladies Cloaths as they went along, and force them to run from the Showers of Wine.

Thus they spent their ill-got Goods in all kind of Lewdness, till Poverty beginning to threaten them, they were obliged to make another Voyage; but in it they had the Miffortune to be surprised and taken, as they were viewing the Fort at Campechie in their Boat. The Governor was glad of having got them into his Hands, and resolved to hang them every Man: They were cast into a Dungeon till the Day of their Execution; but at this critical time Brafiliano wrote a Letter, as from other Pyrates, directed to the Governor, wherein he told him, that if he proceeded to any Severities with those now in his Power, they would be revenged, and never give Quarter to any of the Spanish Nation, who should thereafter fall into their Hands.

This Letter had the defired Effect; for the Governor well knew they were a desperate Set of Villains, that would flick at nothing to accomplish a bloody Revenge; and as that Place had been often visited by the Pyrates, they had not forgot either their Courage or Cruelty, and did not care to expose themselves to their Fury anew: Therefore, by Advice

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Advice of his Council, he thought it most prudent to forbear putting them to Death; but lest they might be tempted to revenge the bad Usage they had already met with, he took care to send every one of them in

the Galleons to Old Spain.

But an European Climate did not agree with these Gentlemens Constitution; they soon got rid of their new Masters, and came all again to Jamaica with the very first Opportunity, where they were kindly received, and foon furnished with a Vessel to renew their Depredations, which they effectually did; for they committed horrid Barbarities on the Spanish Coasts. Brafiliano had an inveterate Spite to that Nation, and expressed it in a very terrible manner; for some of them he roasted alive on wooden Spits; others he tortured with lighted Matches put under their Arm-pits; and to be a Spaniard, was Crime fufficient to incur Death; and it was happy for them, if they met it without first feeling the Effects of his brutal Rage, by a long Course of Torments. Thus he continued for many Years, still successful in his Attempts, and highly regarded by his Fellow-villains, over whom he had fuch Command, that in all his Adventures there never was one Mutineer, which is a rare thing aboard of a Pyrateship.

The Spaniards were so miserably harassed, that they resolved to diminish the Number

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of their trading Vessels; by this means they perfuaded themselves the Pyrates would leave off their Robberies, when they found they could not get good Prizes: But this Method proved ineffectual; for they were resolved to have Money from them at any Rate; and finding they could not meet any Ships of Value, refolved to land and plunder the Country: This they often did very fuccessfully. Lewis Scot was the first who began this bold Method of Robbing; he facked and pillaged Campechie; and, after he had exacted an exorbitant Sum for the Ranfom of the Town, left it. At the same time Mansvelt took the Island of St. Catharine's, which he plundered of every thing that was valuable, and extorted large Sums from the Prisoners by way of Ranfom.

But he who at this time committed the greatest Drepredations, was one John Davis, born in Jamaica: He made an Attempt on Nicaragua with Eighty Men, (having taken care to conceal his Ship in a Creek, and lest ten of the Crew to look after her). With this small Handful he failed up the River in Canoes, in the Night-time, lest their black Designs should be discovered; and arriving at the City the Third Night after their setting out, the Centry who kept the Post of the River, thought they were Fishermen, and allowed them to land without a Challenge; but they were no sooner ashore, than they

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foon dispatched him, and then boldly entered the Town, having a run-away Indian for their Guide; and knocked at the Doors of fome of the chief Inhabitants, who suspecting no Danger, ordered them to be let in. These Villains no sooner got Entrance, than they began to exercise their wonted Cruelties: Some they immediately murdered, others they bound and gagg'd; and thus having disposed of the Proprietors, they pillaged their Houses; nor did they spare the very Churches, plundering them of every thing of Value; and having amassed a great Quantity of Goods and Riches, began to think it time to retire; for some Inhabitants, having found means to escape, gave the Alarm, and the Citizens were run to Arms, and affembled in the Market-place, with a Resolution to repel these bold Invaders: But the Pyrates, having got what they defired, lost no time, retreated to their Canoes, and got down to their Ship in Triumph, carrying with them a great deal of Riches, and a good many Prisoners.

Having been thus successful, they set Sail, but first obliged their wretched Captives to prevail on the neighbouring Plantations to furnish them with as much good Provision as would carry them to Jamaica. They had scarce salted and disposed of it aboard, when they had Intelligence of a strong Body of Spaniards, that were advancing with a Design to attack them: This made them use the quickest

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quickest Dispatch to get to Sea: They were no sooner ready to set Sail, than Five hundred Spaniards, well armed, appeared on the Seaside; they immediately let sly several Broadsides at them, which put the Party into no small Consusion, while they sailed off with the Booty, in their very Sight. They got by this Expedition no less than 50,000 Pieces of Eight, with which they safely reached Jamaica, and spent it after their common Custom.

Davis grew famous. This Exploit gained him universal Reputation for Courage. Nothing was talked of in Jamaica, but his Valour and Conduct; the Planters were in Love. with his Success, and he wanted nothing that was requifite to enable him to undertake another Voyage. He foon got a great many Men together, who voluntarily offered themfelves: He received them well; and having, by means of his Friends in Jamaica, provided seven small Vessels, he manned them, and fet out to Sea. He was chosen Admiral of this Fleet, and they all took their Directions from him. A great while passed, before any thing confiderable happened in his way; at length he determined to attack St. Augustin in Florida, which is guarded by a Castle with two hundred Men: He soon carried the Place, and having entered Sword in Hand, committed horrid Murders; and having having pillaged the Town, retired without the Loss of one Man.

Thave now brought this History to a Time when the Colony was in its greatest Glory, when Money was so plenty, that Port-Royal was reckoned the richest Spot of Ground in the World. I shall here stop, and give you time to resect on this surprising Change! An Island lately conquered, unhealthful, and mutinous, appearing in a sew Years powerful and rich. In my next I shall give you an Account of the samous Morgan, one whose Name is, to this Day, a Terror to Spain, and whose Fame will never die in Jamaica as long as the World lasts.

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LETTER V.

SIR,



A M now to present you with an Abstract of a Life, that, in all its Parts, is extraordinary and surprising; a Man born of mean and obscure Parents, with-

out Learning, or any thing else but his Courage to support him, advanced to the Dignity of a Lieutenant Governor, over one of the finest Colonies in America, performing Actions almost incredible; with a desperate Few, storming Towns, and deseating Thousands, carrying the Terror of his Name to the remotest Corners of the New World, and making Viceroys tremble at the Head of Armies!

Such a one was Sir Henry Morgan, born in the Principality of Wales. His Father was a Farmer, of pretty good Repute, who defigned his Son for the same way of Life; but his Inclinations were turned another way; and finding his Father positive in his Resolution, bid-him adieu, and rambled to Bristol, where he bound himself a Servant for four Years, and was transported to Barbadoes;

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there he was fold, and ferved his Mafter with a great deal of Fidelity. But his Term of Years was no sooner expired, than he shipped himself off for Jamaica, resolving to join the Pyrates, and push for a Fortune along with them. He found Entertainment immediately on his Arrival, on Board a Sloop, which was to cruize upon the Spanish Coasts; and behaved with such Resolution and Courage, that he foon became famous. Having made several prosperous Voyages, he took care to secure his Share of the Booty in good Hands. He faw the Excess and Debauchery of his Fellows, and that they became foon reduced to the lowest Shifts, by their lavish Expences on their Arrival: But he, having vast Designs in View, lived moderate, and got foon together as much Money as purchased a Vessel for himself; and, having got a fine Crew, put to Sea. His Success was at first but small, but afterwards he took several Prizes, which he carried to Jamaica, and disposed of. He made afterwards many fuccessful Expeditions, and his Name grew so famous, that Mansvelt, an old Pyrate, having equipped a confiderable Fleet, with a Design upon the Spaniards, pitched on Morgan to be his Vice-Admiral: They failed from Jamaica with fifteen Ships and five hundred Men, and arrived at the Isle of St. Catharine's, situate near the Continent of Cofta Rica. Here they landed, and made fuch

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such a furious Attack, that they obliged the Castle and Garison to surrender: They became intire Masters of the Island, and resolving to preserve it for their own proper Use, placed an Hundred of their Men in one of the

Forts, intirely demolishing all the rest.

There is a small Island adjoining to St. Catharine's, which is so near, that a Bridgemay reach betwixt them; this they likewise took, and having pillaged the Island of every thing of Value, retired to their Ships, leaving proper Orders with the Garison they had placed in the Castle. They carried off a great many Spanish Prisoners; and judging it imprudent to allow them to continue in the Island, for fear of their creating a Disturbance, they steered for Puerto Velo, where the Spanish Prisoners were set ashore; and thence began to cruize on the Coasts of Costa Rica, designing to proceed a great deal further in Pursuit of new Conquests. But the Governor of Panama, having Intelligence of their Arrival and Defigns, prepared to give them a very warm Reception; and having got together a great Body of Men, he resolved to march, and drive them to their Ships: But they did not think it proper to wait his Coming; for knowing they were discovered, and that they had not a sufficient Force to fight him, they retired to their Ships, and put to Sea.

They made directly for St. Catharine's, where they found their Garison in Health,

and every thing in an extraordinary good Situation. Le Sieur Simon, a Frenchman, whom they had left to command, had performed his Part to their intire Satisfaction. Mansvelt would fain have kept the Island, it being fo convenient for his Designs, and, for that Reafon, applied to the Governor of Jamaica for Affistance; but his Excellency well knew, he durst not countenance them in fuch an open manner: Neither would it have been of Advantage to Jamaica; for the Pyrates had infallibly made St. Catharine's their Place of Rendezvous; and by this means that Stream of Riches, which flowed so plentifully by their means into Jamaica, had been diverted into another Chanel.

Mansvelt applied next to the Governor of Tortuga, but with like Success. Soon after he ended his wicked Life, and the Island of St. Catharine's was retaken by the Spaniards. Morgan did all he could to prevent its falling into their Hands, but to no Purpose; yet notwithstanding he retained his Courage and Spirit, and began to equip another Fleet, in

order to carry on his Defigns.

In less than two Months he saw himself at the Head of Twelve stout Ships, and 700 sighting Men; and, now judging himself sufficiently strong to attempt something of Consequence, he was at first for attacking the Havannah; but, on cooler Thoughts, seeing the Danger of such an Enterprize, he resolved to attempt some other Place.

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After a great many Opinions were heard, they at last agreed to storm Puerto del Principe. which is a fine inland Town in the Island of Cuba. Here the Pyrates hoped for a rich Booty, and having directed their Course to that Part of the Coast which lies nearest it, resolved to land in El Puerto de Sancta Maria Bay. But their Defigns had like to have come to nothing, and the Expedition to have proved fatal to them all; for a Spaniard, whom they detained a Prisoner, having found means to escape, ran directly to the Town, and gave the Alarm. The Governor immediately put the Place in a Posture of Defence, and did all that Prudence or Courage could inspire. raised and armed the People of the City, both Freemen and Slaves; ordered vast Quantities of Trees to be cut down, and laid cross the Roads, to obstruct their Passage; placed feveral Ambuscades in convenient Places; seiz'd an advantageous Pass, thro' which the Pyrates were expected to march; and, with the rest of his Forces, encamped on a fine Plain, from whence they could fee the Pyrates advancing a great way off.

Morgan, with his Party, was surprised to find the Avenues rendered impassable; they well knew they had been discovered, but it was now too late to think of a Retreat: They animated each other, and resolved to face all the Dissiculties in their way; and turning out of the common Road, they travelled thro' the

Woods, and so escaped the Ambuscades; and with a great deal of Difficulty reached the Plain, where the Spaniards lay incamped.

The Governor immediately charged them, and a desperate Fight began. The Spaniards behaved very well; but there was no standing against the Fury of the Pyrates, who fought like fo many Madmen; and understanding exactly how to handle their Weapons, killed a vast Number of Spaniards. The Engagement lasted four Hours. The Governor, and a great many Gentlemen of Note, were killed on the Field of Battle. At last the Rout began, the Spaniards fled, and were briskly purfued by the victorious Pyrates. The People in the Town made a very good Defence, but were forced to furrender. The Town was taken, and foon became a Prey to the rapacious Conquerors: They drove the Men, Women and Children, promiscuously into the Churches, where they shut them in, and fell to Feasting and Riot, while they allowed their Prisoners nothing to support Nature. They continued amassing up all the Wealth they could get, and dispatched Parties into the Country, which returned with great Booty. At last, they began to think of removing; but first used the most inhuman Methods to persuade the poor half-starv'd Spaniards to discover their Money, tormenting them to that Degree, that many died, besides a vast Multitude, who perished of mere Famine.

Pro-

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Provisions beginning to grow scarce, the Pyrates resolved to retreat; but having demanded a Ransom for the Town, a few of the Prisoners were set at Liberty, to endeavour to procure the Sum. At this time a Negro was caught with Letters from the Governor of St. Jago, to some of the principal Inhabitants of the Town; wherein he acquainted them with his Intention of coming very fpeedily to their Relief, and defiring them not to enter into any Agreement with the Pyrates, but put off their Demands by repeated Excuses, till he should get to their Affistance. This unseasonable Piece of News put the Pyrates in a kind of Terror; but concealing their Intelligence from the Townsmen, when their Deputies returned, and told them their Endeavours had been ineffectual; for they could not find Means to raise the Money; Morgan seemed good-natur'd all of a fudden, and told them, he would depart, if they would only provide Five hundred Beeves, and falt them, for victualling his Ships. This they readily consented to, and accordingly performed in a few Days. He then set Sail; but an unhappy Division falling out among his Crew, on account of a Frenchman's being basely stabb'd by one of the English Sailors, the French parted from Morgan, notwithstanding he used the utmost Art to keep them with him. The Criminal he put in Chains, and carried to Jamaica; where

he caused him to be hanged. The Prize they took at Puerto del Principe, did not amount to more than Fifty thousand Pieces of Eight, which, when it came to be divided, was scarce sufficient to desray their Debts in Jamaica; therefore they instantly resolved to go in quest of some new Adventure; and being encouraged by Captain Morgan, they resolved to be led by him, without inquiring into his Designs, having an intire Reliance upon his good Conduct, Courage, and Abilities.

Having his Crew so much at Command, he set Sail with Four hundred and Fisty Men in Nine small Ships, and made towards Costa Rica; there he imparted his Design of attacking Puerto Velo to his whole Company. Several objected against the Attempt, because they had not a sufficient Number to think of Success against so strong a City. But Morgan replied, "If our Numbers are small, our "Hearts are great; and the sewer we are, the better Shares we shall have in the Spoil."

The Hope of Riches made them quit their Fears, and they shewed an Ambition of daring the Danger. Indeed, if we consider the Boldness of this Attempt, it will scarce find a

Parallel in History.

Puerto Velo is about Fourteen Leagues from the Gulf of Darien, and Eight Westwards of Nombre de Dios, and is one of the strongest Places in the West-Indies: It is guarded by Three

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Three Castles, which are almost impregnable, Two of them situated at the Entry to the Port, so that no Ship or Boat can pass without Permission: These are not only well-garisoned, but the Town consists, besides, of near Five hundred Families. The Merchants have here their chief Ware-houses, and 'tis a Place of

extraordinary Trade.

Morgan was perfectly well acquainted with all the Avenues to the City. 'Twas Night when he came to Puerto de Naos, about Ten Leagues West of Puerto Velo: They sailed up the River from thence to Puerto Pontin, where they came to an Anchor. They took Boats, and about Midnight came to Estera longa le Mos, where they all went ashore, and marched by Land to the first Posts of the City. An Englishman, who had been a Prisoner in this Place, served them for a Guide.

This Fellow had Abundance of Courage, and was fit for the greatest Attempts: Bessides, he was pushed on with Desires of Revenge; for the bad Usage he had met with from the Spaniards, had inslamed his Mind to such a Degree, that he listed a Pyrate, with no other View than to be revenged; and this being the Place where he was formerly confined, he exerted himself, on that account, with the greatest Courage, as well as Art and Dexterity.

There

There were only Three more, daring like himself, who offered themselves to go and secure the Centry. They went on with the greatest Caution; for, on their artful Management of this first Attempt, the whole Success of their Expedition depended: When they were got near enough, they at once laid hold of the Centinel, and that so suddenly, that he had not Time, or Presence of Mind, to give the Alarm, by firing his Musket; and they provided against any other Noise, by gagging him.

Having thus successfully finished what they were commanded, they returned to Morgan with their Prisoner. The poor Wretch, being terrified with their Threats, freely discovered all he knew, told them in what Situation the Castle and Garison were, and every thing else which they demanded. On the welcome Intelligence he gave them, they instantly marched, carrying the captive Spaniard along; and, having got close to the Castle, intirely surrounded it; and by this means effectually prevented any from going in, or

The Spaniard, whom they had taken, was commanded to bid them surrender, and, if they resused, to threaten the utmost Severity; but he had no other Return, but from the Mouth of their Cannon. This gave the Alarm to the City; and the Pyrates, asraid lest a superior Force from that Quarter should

coming out.

attack

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attack them, made a furious Assault, and carried the Place. They were no sooner in Possession, but they drove the miserable Spaniards into one Place, and instantly set Fire to the Magazine of Powder, which in

an Instant destroyed them.

They next marched to the City, which they entered without any Difficulty; for the Inhabitants were like so many distracted Perfons, running about, and not knowing which Hand to turn to. The Governor used his utmost to rally, and reduce them to Order; but in vain: He therefore, with some of the chief Inhabitants, returned to another Castle, which yet was unaffaulted by the Pyrates; thither a great many reforted, and carried their Riches and best Goods. The successful Pyrates began a miserable Havock; and tho' the Governor fired incessantly upon them from the Castle, yet it had no other Effect, but to spur them on to do their Business with the greater Dispatch. They rifled not only the Houses, but the Churches. In the mean time, they found that they had loft a great many of their Companions; and, being flushed with Desires of Revenge, unanimously resolved to attack the Castle, which had done them such Mischief, and where they knew there was a vast Quantity of Riches lodged. They began the Affault with furprifing Intrepidity, and did a great deal of Hurt to the Garison; for they took their Aim so well, that they never miffed

missed to shoot the Spaniards, whenever they came to load the Guns. Amidst the Horror of this Assault, both Parties behaved with equal Courage; and the Pyrates, observing the fout Resistance they met with, prepared Fire-balls, with which they defigned to fire the Gates: But having approached to the Walls, the Garison threw down huge Stones, and Flasks of Powder, which killed a great many, and obliged the rest to retire. In this Disorder Morgan scarce knew how to behave; he faw it almost impracticable to carry the Place, and yet his high Spirit would not allow him to give over the Affault. But he had certainly been obliged to defift, if at that very Instant he had not perceived English Colours set upon the Walls of the other Castle, which another Body of the Pyrates had fuccessfully stormed. This Sight encouraged his fainting Troops to renew the Attack; and having prepared large scaling Ladders, commanded the religious Persons, whom he had taken from the Monasteries, to fix them to the Walls: They were obliged to obey; and having approached the Castle, conjured the steady Governor by all the Saints to deliver the Place; but he bravely refused, and let Morgan know his Policy should have no Effect; for the crafty Pyrate had employed the Priests and Nuns, believing that the Reverence, which the Spaniards bore them, would have made them defift from firing. The

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The Governor did all that could be expected from a brave Man; he fired with the utmost Fury, and killed great Numbers of the Religious: But notwithstanding his gallant Defence, the Ladders were got fixed, and the Pyrates mounted with incredible Resolution, carrying Fire-balls and Pitchers full of Powder in their Hands, which they threw among the Spaniards, who perceiving their Enemies entered, (after a very sharp Engagement) threw down their Arms, and begged for Quarter; only the Governor stood out with amazing Courage, killed many of the Pyrates with his own Hands, and bravely performed the Part of a gallant Soldier. He refused Quarter, and was killed. An heroic Instance of distinguished Worth!

The Place being now in their Power, they fell to their usual Debaucheries, committed the most horrid Rapes and Murders, tortured the Prisoners, and barbarously derided them in their Misery; till at last they began to think of retreating, which they offered to their Captives, if they would pay 100,000 Pieces of Eight for their Ransom. Two of that miserable Number were deputed from the rest to go to Panama, to raise the Sum; but the President, having raised a large Body of Men, was on his March to encounter the Pyrates. The Deputies waited the Event, which proved fatal to the President's Party; for a Hundred Pyrates beat and dispersed

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them.

them, having killed an incredible Number in the time of the Engagement. This Difafter convinced these Gentlemen, who had been sent to procure the Ransom, that there was a Necessity of complying with Morgan's Demands; therefore, having raised the Sum, they returned, and gave it into his Hands.

Having victualled his Ships, he set Sail, but first dismounted the great Guns on the Castles, and levelled several Redoubts which had been raised by the Spaniards. He soon got to Jamaica, and sound his Purchase amount to 250,000 Pieces of Eight, besides all other Merchandizes. Thus successfully ended one of the boldest Attempts that perhaps was ever made: Four hundred Men, to attack a strong and populous City, guarded by Three Castles well garison'd, and abounding with all manner of military Stores, while the Pyrates had nothing but Sword and Pistol to sight with! What will not such Resolution surmount?

They were very welcome Guests at Jamaica; the Planters, and Men in Power,
caressed Morgan, while the inferior Sort
contrived every kind of Bait to drain his
Associates of their Money. They were very
liberal, and in a short time came clamouring
to their Captain to put to Sea; for they were
reduced to a starving Condition. Immediately
he set about making Preparations for a new
Expedition; and his Fame being now increased

creased to a high Pitch, he saw himself in a short time at the Head of a Thousand brave resolute Fellows. The Governor of Jamaica gave him a fine new Vessel, which carried Thirty-two Guns; but she unfortunately was blown up, with feveral Hundreds aboard, who all miserably perished. This Misfortune noways discouraged the rest; while Morgan was safe, they thought Success fure, and accordingly embarked with a great deal of Chearfulness. After cruizing some time on the Coast, he formed a Resolution of facking Maracaibo, being excited thereto by the Advice of a French Sailor, who had been before with Lollonois at the Pillage of that Place. It was not long before they arrived at the Sea of Maracaibo, and having entered the Lake, foon found themselves in very imminent Danger; for the Spaniards had lately built a new Fort, which at this time was in a very good Condition; and firing with the utmost Fury on the Pyrates, put them into fome Disorder. However, in spite of the Opposition they met with, they landed, and a very sharp Engagement began, which continued for a long while: At length the Spaniards, about the dark of the Night, began to retreat. The Pyrates durst not venture to pursue, because they were unacquainted with the Place, and were afraid of an Ambuscade; but in a few Hours, Morgan finding every thing quiet, ventured alone to the Walls

Walls of the Fort, which he found deserted ; on this he returned, and acquainted the rest; who came forwards, and took Possession of the Place: Here they found a vast Quantity of Powder, and a great Number of small Arms; they nailed all the great Guns, and having divided the Ammunition among the Ships, fet Sail again, and made for Maracaibo; but being obliged to stop by reason of a Shoal, they left their Ships, took Canoes, and got to the City next Day. They had no fooner landed, but they immediately ran to the Fort de la Barra, which they found likewise deserted, together with the City, the Spaniards not daring to tempt their Courage, or defend themselves; and having before felt the barbarous Rage of these Sort of Men, had no mind to expose themselves to their Fury a fecond time; but carried off their best Effects with them.

The Pyrates, not finding any Prize, were prodigiously out of Humour; they sent a Party to the Woods to make Discovery, who returned with about Thirty Prisoners, and Fifty Mules loaded with Goods: On these innocent Wretches they exercised the most horrible Torments, thereby endeavouring to extort a Confession, where the rest of the Inhabitants, and their Riches, were concealed: Some had their Limbs stretched with Cords, and at the same time were beat with Sticks, and other Instruments; others had burning Matches placed

placed betwixt their Fingers, or Cords twifted about their Heads, till their Eyes started out of the Skull. Thus they continued their Tortures for almost Three Weeks. Every Day Parties were sent abroad, who returned with Riches, and new Prisoners; and Morgan having now about a Hundred of the chief Inhabitants in his Hands, resolved to go on to Gibraltar. He newequipped his Feet, and sent some of the Prisoners before to persuade them to surrender, or expect no Mercy; but on his Arrival, he was saluted with a surious Fire from the Cannon of the Place: But this noways damped their Spirits; these Showers of Death only animated them with the greater Fury.

Notwithstanding this warm Reception, and the continued Vollies which were discharged upon them, they resolutely went ashore; and being conducted by their French Guide, made all possible Dispatch to get to the Town; but the Citizens, furprifed at fuch an amazing Attempt, began to doubt if it was possible to refift their Attack. Fear oftentimes magnifies Dangers, and it was no difficult thing to perfuade the terrified Inhabitants, that they had no other Refuge but to fly. With one Confent they left the City, having first taken care to secure their Money and Effects, carrying the greatest Part along with them, and burying the rest, that so the Pyrates, finding nothing to invite their Stay, might the sooner depart.

In this Hurry one only Person was forgot, who being an Idiot, had no Apprehension of the Danger: This Wretch fell into the merciles Hands of Morgan's Crew, who not giving Ear to any thing but the barbarous Dictates of their own Cruelty, put the unfortunate Creature to the Rack. They lifted him up with Cords, and tied huge Weights to his Feet and Neck; besides this, they almost burnt him alive; his Face was scorched with the Flames, and his whole Body mangled in such a pitiful manner, that he soon expired amidst the Torture.

The Pyrates, being thus disappointed of their Hopes of Plunder, were perfectly uneasy; they fwore and raged, and vowed the bloodiest Revenge; they immediately detached feveral Parties, who were fent to range the Woods, and discover the Retreat of the miserable Spaniards. One of them foon returned with a Peasant and his two Daughters, whom they had made Prisoners: This Man, being immediately threatened with the Rack, had not Courage to undergo the Torture. He meanly preferred his own Ease to the Good of the rest of his Fellow-citizens, and offered to discover the Places to which they had retired: But the Spaniards, whose wary Eyes had discovered · their Enemies ranging in Quest of them, used the Precaution to remove further into the thickest of the Woods, and the Pyrates were once more disappointed. Upon this they hanged

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hanged up the perfidious Peasant. Thus did mean Villainy meet a just Reward! Low and dastardly Souls, who ingloriously prefer their private Sasety to the publick Good, seldom escape being involved in that Ruin which they

hope by fuch base means to avoid.

Upon this Disappointment, the Pyrates divided themselves, and went out with a Resolution never to return, till they had found out the Place of the Spaniards Retreat. Their good Fortune led them to a Plain, where they found one of the Spanish Slaves: This Fellow too well answered the Character of his Countrymen, and the Expectation of the Pyrates; for being won by their romantick Promises, he conducted them to the poor Huts of the miserable and affrighted Spaniards. They soon made a confiderable Number Prisoners, on whom they exercised horrid and unheard-of Cruelties; for having returned to Gibraltar with vast Riches, they examined their Captives, and among others a Portuguese, whom the Negro (that was now become their Informer) reported to be very rich. This was an intire Falshood, and tho' the unfortunate Merchant protested, that the little Money, and few Effects. which he had acquired, were stolen in the general Confusion which the City was in on the Pyrates Arrival, yet they proceeded to their usual Barbarities; and without any Respect to his old Age, cruelly tied his Two Thumbs and great Toes, to some Stakes that

that were fixed in the Ground for that

Purpose.

The Weight of his Body being wholly suspended in the Air by these Four small and tender Members, made him endure the most exquisite Torments; but not satisfied with this, they took a large Stone, upwards of Two hundred Weight, and laid it on his Breast. Altho' these Tortures were of themselves sufficiently horrid, yet they proceeded to higher Degrees of Cruelty; and almost burned him to Death with lighted Palmleaves. His very Eyes, by the Violence of the Heat, were ready to start from their Orbits. All the Parts of his Body were fo torn, shatter'd and mangled, that when he was unloofed, he scarce retained the Form of a Man. In this wretched Condition he was carried to their Corps du Guard, and being threatened with fresh Torments, asked Liberty to converse with one of the Prisoners; which being allowed, he promised them Five hundred Pieces of Eight, on Condition they would fet him at Liberty. This Propofal was rejected with Scorn; but having, with the greatest Difficulty, raised the Sum to One thousand, they thought proper to accept of the Offer, and accordingly dismiss'd him. Nor was this unhappy Portuguese the only Person on whom they practifed their Cruelty; others had the same, if not a worse Fate; some were hanged up by the Testicles or privy Members,

Members, and left in that tortured Condition, till they fell to the Ground. In this horrid State of Agony did they continue, till a sharp, but lingering Death put a Period to their unhappy Lives, unless some one of the Pyrates, more merciful than the rest, had the Charity to dispatch them at once. Others were crucified alive, and when they had a mind to be more gentle, they put their Prisoners Feet into a Fire; and, without the smallest Degree of Pity and Compassion, kept them them there, till they had extorted all that these poor Wretches knew of their unhappy Countrymen.

But here I must not neglect to do Justice to Captain Morgan's Character, who neither authorized, nor was present when these Barbarities were committed: And the Prejudice branded him with countenancing this cruel Treatment of the Spaniards, yet, I am well assured, he was not in the Place to give Orders at that time; for I have seen a Manuscript, writ by one who was concerned in the Expedition, which contains a Journal of their whole Procedure. This Relation, now in the Hands of a considerable Planter here, vindicates Morgan from these black Aspersions.

The Truth of the Matter stood thus: Morgan having prevailed on a Slave to discover where the Governor of Gibraltar, and the most considerable Inhabitants, together with their Essects, lay conceased, went immediately with

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Two hundred Men to attack them. He likewife ordered Two hundred and Fifty more to march to a River, which discharges itself into the Lake, in Search of a Ship and Four Boats, which were richly laden with Goods; and in the time of their Absence, all the above-named Cruelties were committed.

Morgan's Expedition proved unfuccessful; for on the first Notice of his Approach, the Governor retired to a Mountain, which was almost inaccessible. The Pyrates soon saw it was impossible to expect any Success. He was too well secured to fear their Attack, and they too much fatigued to attempt to dislodge him. Morgan returned, having lost a great many Men by his rash Conduct; for their Fatigue was so great, their Marches so long, their Provision so bad, and the Weather so unwholsome, that many perished in the Journey.

The Success of the other Party made some Amends for this Loss: They seized on the Ship and Boats, and brought all the Treasure

they contained to Gibraltar.

The Pyrates, finding it impossible to hold the Place any longer, and being tired with repeated Rapes and Murders, began to think of a Retreat. They had now been long absent from Maracaibo, and were afraid the Spaniards had taken Measures to hinder their Departure out of the Lake. Having therefore

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put the Town, and all the Prisoners to a Ranforn, they fet Sail, and in four Days arrived at Maracaibo. Here they found every thing in the same State they had left it, but were foon confounded with an Account, that three Spanish Men of War were arrived at the Entry of the Lake, of a much superior Force to theirs, and resolved to dispute the Paffage. They forthwith dispatched one of their quickest failing Boats for Intelligence, which in a short time returned with the dismal News, that it was all Fact; and further, that the Spaniards had again fortified the Castle at the Entry of the Lake, put it into a good Posture of Defence, provided it with a large Garison, a great Number of fine Guns, and all forts of Ammunition.

In these sad Circumstances, every one began to despair. There was no possible way of Retreat left. Their Enemies were too powerful to be engaged with, and they had no other Hopes, but of falling alive into the Hands of the revengeful Spaniards, who, they knew, would not fail to treat them with the Rigour and Severity, which their own barbarous Actions so well deserved.

While every thing bore this dark and gloomy Aspect, and all were afraid, Morgan alone remained unshaken and unmoved. this Occasion he acted the Hero; nothing could daunt his intrepid Soul; his Courage surmounted all Difficulties, and afforded an

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Example, that the Resolution of One daring Spirit, in time of Danger, is oftentimes more to be valued, than the Swords of Thoufands of a less noble and exalted Turn. He boldly fent one of his Prisoners to the Spanish Admiral, and demanded a Tribute, or he would fet the City of Maracaibo on Fire. This Man delivered his Message to the great Surprize of the Spaniards, who could not imagine whence such a Resolution should proceed, confidering they looked upon the Pyrates as their Prisoners. However, as they expected a desperate Engagement, they thought it most proper to offer them Terms, tho' very hard ones; for the Spanish Admiral wrote a Letter to Morgan, in which he proposed to let him pass, if he would deliver up all his Prisoners, and whatever he had plundered at Maracaibo and Gibraltar. This peremptory Demand of the Don was as shocking to the Pyrates, as if he had bid them furrender at Discretion. The Riches they had got, were what they had exposed their Lives in order to obtain; and they refolved to die, rather than tamely refign what they had bought at so dear a Price.

As open Force appeared a dangerous Expedient, they thought fit, on this Occasion, to make use of Art and Stratagem. A Fire-ship was contrived with such Ingenuity, that it was impossible for their Enemies to discover her to be one. They filled her Decko

with

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with Logs of Wood set upright, on which they put Hats, and Montera Caps, that they might appear to their Enemies as so many Men. Counterseit Cannon were placed at the Port-holes, and English Colours displayed. Having gathered all the Pitch, Tar, Brimstone, and other combustible Matter, they prepared themselves to go to the Entry of the Port. Morgan exacted an Oath of all his Associates, never to yield to the Spaniards, but defend themselves to the last Drop of Blood. Thus they advanced with amazing Intrepidity, and came up with the street Spanish Ships. The Fireship immediately grappled with the largest, and set her in a Blaze.

Another, seeing the Missortune of the Admiral, and apprehensive of the same Danger, run ashore. The third fell an easy Prey to the Pyrates. Nothing could have happened more agreeable than this Victory. Their Spirits were now revived, and with one Confent they went ashore, and made a furious Attack on the Castle. But it was so well defended by the Spaniards within, that all their Attempts were vain. The Pyrates retired, and prepared for another Affault. By this time the Courage of the Spaniards began to fall; and Terms being offered, the Pyrates accepted of 15000 Pieces of Eight, and thereupon went quietly away. On a Computation of what Purchase they had made, they K 2 found

found in all 250,000 Pieces of Eight, besides a huge Quantity of Jewels, Merchandize and Slaves. This Booty was divided among the Adventurers, according to the respective Proportions which had been before agreed on; and soon after the successful Pyrates reached Jamaica, where, for a while, they indulged themselves in all the Excesses which

Luxury could invent.

The Name of Morgan was now famous at home, and terrible abroad. He himself promised greater things than he had yet attempted; and nothing was thought impossible for such Courage to perform. He no sooner proclaimed his Design of another Expedition, than Thousands slocked to attend him. They all embarked with a great deal of Joy, and directed their Course to Hispaniola. On their Arrival in that Island, they sent out Parties to seek for Provision. There they endured a good deal of Hardship; but at last their Dissipulities were removed, and they got all manner of Stores in Plenty.

Having dispatched their Business there, they made for the Island of St. Katharine's, which, after a short Resistance, they took and plundered. The Treachery of the Governor let it fall sooner into their Hands, than it would otherwise have done. Morgan resolved to keep this as a Place of Retreat; and having reduced it intirely to his Obedience, he left more than one half his Forces to desend it.

With the rest, he attacked the Castle of Chagre, which made a very brave Resistance; and had it not been an Accident, which determined them to surrender, it would probably have repelled all their Assaults. One of the Pyrates happened to be wounded with an Arrow: He immediately pulled it out, and having wrapped a little Cotton about its bloody Point, put it into his Musket, and fired it off to the Castle. The Cotton was kindled by the Powder, and falling near their Magazine, blew it all up at once. This soon made them yield; and now Captain Morgan was full of his Voyage to Panama.

He fet out with Twelve hundred Men up-

on the 18th of August 1670.

The Hardships this Party underwent were surprising; they not only struggled with common Difficulties, but likewise encountered Famine, and every kind of Misery. They were reduced to feed upon the Leaves of Trees, and to take unheard-of Methods to

preserve their Lives.

These Difficulties were owing to the prudent Foresight of the Governor of Panama, who had taken care to ruin and lay waste the Country, thro' which he knew they must necessarily pass. But no Obstacles were sufficient to obstruct Morgan's Designs, or thwart his Measures; he marched boldly on. At last they came to a high Mountain, from the Summit of which they were able to

K 3 descry

descry the South-Sea. This happy Sight gave sem inexpressible Joy, and they descended with a brave Eagerness, in Quest of a Place, which they had so long wandered in Search of. They had not gone far, till they found themselves in a fine Valley, which was not only well watered, but abounded with Cattle. The Pyrates, for this once, bleffed Heaven for the joyful Sight. They directly fell to killing; and having made Fires, dressed the best Meal they had eat for a long while. The brave, and no less cautious Morgan, allowed them but a very little time to fatisfy their Hunger, being afraid, in such an unguarded Hour, they might be surprised by some of the Spanish Parties, which, he had Intelligence, surrounded him on all Sides. He therefore ordered his Followers to continue their March; and detached a Party of Fifty Men, to take some Prisoners, if possible.

A little while after, they came within Prospect of the highest Steeple of Panama. This Sight inspired them with a mad and singular kind of Joy. They shouted, halloo'd, tossed up their Hats in the Air, and leaped like Men deprived of the Use of Reason. All the Trumpets were sounded, and every Drum was beat, as a Proof of that Joy and Satisfaction, which, upon this Oc-

cafion, reigned in every Breast.

They chearfully advanced towards the City, and it being now towards Night, encamped on

on the Plain, at a little Distance from it. A Party of Horse immediately sallied out, but thought it not proper to come within Musketshot of them. At the same time, Two hundred Spaniards appeared on another Quarter; but they too thought fit to keep quiet, and only observe the Pyrates Motions. In the mean time, the great Guns from the City played upon their Camp; but the Pyrates, who were used to such kind of Music, opened their Satchels, and fell to Supper, refolving next Day to pay them in their own Coin.

Early in the Morning they fet forward on the great Road, which leads to the Town; but being afraid of Ambuscades, if they should purfue that way, fuddenly turned afide, and chose a more difficult Path. This was a great Disappointment to the Spaniards, who were now obliged to quit their Batteries and Posts, and come out to meet them. Governor of Panama advanced at the Head of Two Squadrons of Horse, Four Regiments of Foot, and a vast Number of wild Bulls, which were driven by Indians and Negroes.

As foon as the Pyrates faw fuch a numerous Army, they began to be afraid; but reflecting, that they had no Hope left, but either it must be Death or Victory, they encouraged one another, and refolved to make their utmost Efforts to obtain the latter.

On their Approach, the Spanish Horse began to move, but were opposed by Two hundred. K 4

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hundred Pyrates, who gave them a Volley
of Shot.

The Battle foon turned hot: Numbers fell on both Sides. The Spaniards fought very courageously, and did all they could to ruin and disorder the Pyrates; but nothing could withstand the Valour with which they fought. The Fury of their Attacks was unsupportable. The Spaniards, finding themselves so hardly pressed, attempted to drive the Bulls upon their Rear: But these Creatures were frighted with the Noise of the Battle, and ran away. The Engagement lasted upwards of Two Hours, and the Spanish Army, being broke on all Quarters, at last fled in the greatest Disorder. Many fell in the Pursuit; but the Slaughter had been greater, if the Pyrates had not been fatigued, and consequently unable to follow. The Prisoners who were so unfortunate as to fall into their Hands, were instantly murdered. Morgan learned from one of them the true State of the City, that Trenches were made, and Batteries raised in a great many Places, which were defended by a Number of Cannon; that the Entry of the Highway, which led to the City, was guarded by a Fort erected for that Purpole, and mounted with Eighteen great Guns. This Prisoner likewise told him, That the Governor had that Day brought into the Field of Battle 400 Horse, 3000 Foot, 200 Indians, and 2000 wild Bulls.

On this Intelligence, he instantly commanded them to march another way, being resolved to pursue the Victory he had gained, and give the Spaniards no Time to repose. On a Review of his Forces, he found, that no less than 200 had fallen in the Engagement; 600 Spaniards were found dead on the Spot, besides a great many wounded, whom they foon took care to dispatch. tho' his Party was thus weakened, yet he marched boldly up to the Town, and gave the Affault. The Spaniards made a furious Fire; their great Guns were loaded with small Pieces of Iron, and Musket-bullets; and the Shot being well aimed, a great many of the Pyrates fell at every Discharge. But nothing could deter them; they boldly faced the Danger, and gained Ground every Moment upon the Enemy. For three Hours the Townsmen did all that lay in their Power to preserve the City: They fought with the greatest Resolution, but were at length forced to yield to the superior Courage of the Affailants. The Pyrates possessed themfelves of the Town, and made an incredible Slaughter of the Inhabitants. They found the Warehouses well stocked with all forts of Merchandize, and every kind of Provifion in great Plenty. This was what the Pyrates had at this time the greatest Occafion for: But the wary Morgan suspected the Wines might be poisoned, and therefore gave

gave express Orders, that none should dare to taste 'em: And certainly nothing could argue a more prudent and politick Conduct; for he well knew, his half-starv'd Party would immediately give themselves over to all kind of Excess, and unman themselves to such a degree, that they would fall an easy Prey, in case the Spaniards should dare to attack them; and the making them credit the Suspicion of the Wines being poisoned, was the

only means to restrain them.

Having disposed of every thing to the best Advantage, and posted Guards at convenient Places, all at once the City was set on a Flame. The Houses, being mostly of Cedar, were soon consumed; and that flourishing Town, which excelled any in the West-Indies, either for magnificent Structures, Riches, or Number of Buildings, was in one Day reduced to Ashes; 7000 Houses were burned down, and the Flames were so violent, that notwithstanding the utmost Efforts to extinguish them, they spread and continued their Fury, till not a single Cottage was left unconsumed.

The Blame of this black and barbarous Action was generally laid upon Morgan, but without the least Ground; for he not only always disclaimed his Knowledge of the Matter, but wrote a Justification of himself as to this Particular, which is yet extant, and to be seen in the Hands of a considerable Number in this Island. It seemed likely,

that

that some of the Prisoners had found means to perpetrate the Fact. It is not to be imagined, that those Men, who were actuated by no other Views, but the Love of Gain, and adventured fo far, and exposed themselves to fuch Dangers on that very account, would destroy their Hopes, and at once take effectual Methods to confume what they had gained at the Expence of so much Toil and Blood. On the other hand, that revengeful Temper, which is the Characteristick of the Spanish Nation, might easily induce them to such an Action, to disappoint the Pyrates Expectations, and rather fee their Riches in a Flame, than in their Possession; for these Reasons it can't be thought, the Ruin of this fine City was owing to any thing else but Spanish Revenge.

After the Fire had spent itself, the Pyrates fell to work on the Ruins, and found vast Quantities of Gold and Silver, but especially in the Wells and Cifterns, into which Millions had been thrown. They continued here near Three Months, and, in the mean time, having got abundance of Prisoners, they extorted large Sums, by way of Ransom, from these unhappy Captives: Nor were they idle in other respects; they fent two Ships to the South-Sea, to make Discoveries; but whether thro' the bad Conduct of the Commanders, or some other unlucky Accident, they did nothing. A rich Spanish Galleon passed

many other Prizes escaped their Hands. However, the Party that was lest at Chagre, made some Amends for this ill Conduct: They took a great many Ships, some of an immense Value.

Morgan, perceiving that no more was to be done at Panama, resolved to depart; and having packed up whatever was valuable, fet out, and foon after arrived at Chagre. There they made a Dividend of what they had 'Tis not improbable but Morgan referved too large a Share for himself; for the common Sailors had only 200 Pieces of Eight each. This was too small a Proportion, confidering they carried off from Panama One hundred and Seventy-five Mules loaded with Silver, Gold, and other precious Spoils. His Crew mutinied, and he was glad to steal privately off with only three or four Ships, manned with fuch of his People as he could trust, and got to Jamaica with 400,000 Pieces of Eight in Specie.

After such repeated Successes, the brave Morgan was at last unfortunate, not through the Valour of his Enemies, but the Treachery of his Countrymen, who were bribed by Spanish Gold to procure his Ruin. As he never acted without a Commission, he refused to prosecute his surther Designs, when the Governor recalled it. Many sharp Memorials were presented to the Court of England,

against

against the Governor of Jamaica, for encouraging the Pyrates. The Spanish Remonfirances had their defired Effect: Morgan was discouraged, and threatened with a Trial for his pyratical Courses. However, his Money faved him at that time. With what he had left, he purchased a Plantation, which he lived upon, and improved. His Behaviour retained nothing of the Roughness of the Pyrate, and, in all the Stages of Civil Life, he acted a truly great and becoming Part: He recommended himself so effectually to the good Opinion of all, that he was admitted into the Council of the Island, was knighted by the King, and afterwards enjoyed the Place of Lieutenant-Governor, which he filled with the greatest Applause. But many Years after, he was called to an Account for his Actions; and notwithstanding he had ever acted by a Commission from the Governor and Council of Jamaica, and had received their publick Thanks; yet, upon a Letter from the Secretary of State, he was fent Prisoner to England, and, without having any Crime laid to his Charge, or being ever brought to a Hearing, he was long confined: By which means, that found and robust Constitution, which neither the Toils of War, the Shocks of Famine, nor the Fatigues of Watching, had hitherto impaired, was at last quite broken and ruined: Oppressed and borne down by keen Opposition,

Faction, he was seized with a flow and lingering Distemper, which at once robbed him of Life, and the World of a truly great Man; one who reflected Honour on his Country, struck Terror into Spain, and performed Exploits in these Seas, equal, if not superior, to any that ever flowed from English Courage.

This short Abstract of so heroick a Life will furnish you with a strong and lively Idea of the Man, and convince you, that a Soul nobly daring, a Mind breathing pure and untainted Heroism, may be lodged in a Body sprung from the meanest of Mortals. The Meanness of Morgan's Parentage, and the Lowness of his Birth, were Circumstances which could not possibly check his aspiring Soul in her eager Pursuit after Glory. Sprung, as he was, from a Farmer, he foon raifed himself to such a Situation in Life, as daily called upon him to shew the vast Odds betwixt a hardy, courageous, free Briton, and a dastardly, mean-spirited, enslaved Spaniard. This Captain had Commissions to prey upon the Spaniards, from Two successive Governors, who discovered a penetrating Judgment, by making Choice of Morgan for this Effect. Did the same Sentiments continue to warm the Breasts, and fire the Souls, of our present Governors, we should hear no more of Spanish Depredations. In these Days no Spaniard durst offer to insult a Briton. The very Sight

Sight of English Colours was sufficient to strike a panick Terror into whole Fleets. Now, * our brave Sailors work in the Spanish Mines; our Merchants Effects are seized: We may complain; but, good God!we dare not make Reprifals. The fame Spirit, the same Ardour, yet animate the Breasts of the English Subjects; and were sufficient Encouragement given, this Colony alone would again be able to chastise the haughty Dons, and make them repent their rash and barbarous Infults. Not a Heart but flames with Indignation; War is what every one wishes, and all would chearfully unite to do themselves Justice, and retrieve the Glory and the Splendor of the British Arms, which in these Parts of the World are quite despised. Before I put a Close to this Epistle, it will not be improper to observe, That the Love of Gain oftentimes proves the most powerful Incentive to great Actions, which, tho' ordinarily judged to flow from a certain innate Greatness of Soul, are nevertheless frequently the Off-spring of a Passion more mean and fordid, namely, Avarice: And Self-love, and the Defire of private Good, many times makes a Hero, as well as a Coward. This prevailing Principle seems to be one of the great Sources whence these Actions, which command the Esteem and Admiration of Man-

^{*} It is almost needless to say, that this Letter was written before the Declaration of the present War against Spain.

kind, flow. To bear the first Character, and enjoy the highest Place in Rome, animated a Cafar to plot the Ruin of his Country: The same Motives determined the daring Cromwell to usurp the Power and Authority of a King. These were the Principles which they kept still in View, and push'd 'em on to Toil and Danger, to Glory and to Conquest. And, to raise himself above his native Meanness, was the first Cause that led Morgan to feek Glory and Riches, in the midst of Dangers in a new World. I would not have you imagine; that I look upon Vice as the Origin of Virtue: No! Such Principles I detest as base, and the dazzling Consequences of them I view with an Eye of equal Horror. These Murderers of Mankind, who, from private Views, make their Fellow-mortals fall the guiltless Victims of their Ambition, and massacre Thousands to gain themselves a Name; they and their Actions are justly branded with Infamy and Reproach, by every wise and thinking Man.

In giving you this fhort Account of fo remarkable a Life, I have been obliged to interrupt the Order of my Narration; for Morgan not only flourished during the Government of Sir Thomas Moddiford, but likewise

during that of Sir Thomas Lynch.

I am, SIR, Yours, &c. LET-

are



LETTER VI.



AVING finished this Account of the most considerable Pyrates that infested the American Seas, I shall now proceed to give you a short, but distinct Recital of

what happened most remarkable, from that time till now.

Sir Thomas Moddiford was one of the best Governors that ever Jamaica had; he perfectly understood the way of managing the new Colony; he encouraged not only Trade, but likewise promoted new Settlements; he set a fair Example; for there was none that ever contributed so much to reduce the Island into good Order, or improved an Estate to better Advantage. In his Time, the Island was first divided into Parishes or Precincts, by virtue of a full Charter from the Crown; by which an Affembly or House of Representatives was appointed, Courts of Justice established, and every thing brought to an exact Order. I shall afterwards have Occasion to explain the different Powers of the Governor, Council and Affembly; only here it may not be improper to tell you, they

are a near Representation of the British Government, by King, Lords and Commons. Every Parish sends Two Members, and each of the Towns Three, to represent them in the Assembly: The first Proceedings of that sovereign Court are scarcely known; they made only a few temporary By-laws, which are now obsolete, or were revived in that great Assembly in the Year 1682. in which was first compiled a Body of Statutes, which I shall give you an Account of in its proper Place.

Sir Thomas Moddiford continued in the Government till 1669. when he was succeeded by Sir Thomas Lynch, who purfued the same Steps which his Predecessor had done before him: He encouraged the Pyrates, and found large Returns of Profit. Sir Henry Morgan had a Commission from him, and it was during his Government that he performed some of those great Actions, which render his Name immortal. Little happened worth remarking in this Governor's Time, except only the Exploits of the Pyrates: Private Affairs were regularly carried on. But it may be worth observing, that in his Time the first Instance happened of a Purfuit at Civil Law for a Debt. Since, indeed, they have improved on this Example; for besides petty Actions, at every grand Court there are upwards of a Thousand in the Roll. Some barbarous Murders were likewife committed

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mitted at this time by the Negroes on their Masters: To give an Account of 'em all, is not possible, and seems quite foreign to my present Design. But that you may be enabled to form a Judgment of that barbarous and inhuman Turn of Mind, which almost universally prevails among the Negroes, I shall give you a short, but a genuine and candid Account of the Manner in which a Set of them treated one of their unfortunate Masters.

In the Precinct of St. Anne's, which is fituated on the North Skirts of the Island, there lived a Planter, famous for his Riches, and justly valued for his generous and hospitable Disposition: His Inclination to affift the Distressed, and afford a seasonable Relief to those that were in calamitous Circumstances, prevailed fo much over his Defire of bettering his Fortune, and increasing his Stores, that he never faw the least Instance of Misery, without endeavouring either to alleviate or quite remove it: But this Goodness of his Disposition brought about the Loss of his Life; for happening one Day to take a Turn thro' a Part of that Spot of Ground which he poffefsed, he heard such Groans and Sighs, as seemed to proceed from a Heart that was filled with real Woe. Having a genuine and unfeigned Satisfaction in doing Good, he directed his Steps to that Quarter, from whence he thought the Sound proceeded: He had not gone far, till he espied a young Man, emaciated

ated to such a Degree, that he had scarce the Resemblance of a human Creature left about him. The Eyes of this hospitable and tenderhearted Planter had no fooner viewed him. than his Heart was touched with Compassion for him. He asked him whence he came? and in a friendly manner, inquired into the Cause of his Misfortunes. The Youth replied. he was a Negro, who had deferted his Master's Service, and found means to join fome Run-aways, who had treated him fo cruelly, that he was reduced to the Necessity of leaving them. The Planter did not infolently triumph over his Misery, but readily offered to do what in him lay, to place him in a happier State, and in better Circumstances. The young Man readily embraced an Offer fo kind. His Strength was either fo far exhausted, as that he was not able, or his Diffimulation fo great, as that he was not willing, to walk home with his new Benefactor. The friendly Planter, however, foon fell upon means to get him conveyed to his own Plantation. Here nothing, which either due Attendance, or the Art of Physick, could contribute to Health, was wanting. By the Skill of the Physician, and the joint Efforts of Nature, he foon got the better of his Distemper; and finding him at last in a confirmed State of Health, the generous Gentleman conceived a Liking to him, procured his Pardon, and purchased him from his former Owner.

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Owner. The Youth was put to Work, but Labour ill agreed with his Taste and Genius; he thought it below him to be a Slave, and reckon'd it a dastardly Lowness of Soul to obey a Superior. He was naturally a Lover of the Female Sex, and had his Thoughts much turned upon little Gallantries and Intrigue. In short, he liked Debauchery better than the Fatigue of Work, and had a stronger Inclination to dally with the Female Slaves, than to plant his Master's Sugar-cane: A Man of this Character feldom fails to act fuch a Part as calls for Punishment. The Extravagance of the Youth called for due Chastisement. Upon this, he conceived a mortal Hatred to his Master; and being a Man of a sly and infinuating Turn, he foon recommended himfelf to his Fellow-flaves, and brought them so effectually over to his Interests, that he was capable of persuading them to come into any Measures he pleased. Convinced of this, he ventures to make a Proposal: He tells them he would rescue them from Slavery, and place them in fuch Circumstances, as would enable them to relish the true Pleasures of Life, provided they would lend their Aid to dispatch their common Master. How this was at first relished by the Consciences of the Negroes, I cannot tell; but their Conduct, in the Issue, declared, that they had got over all their petty Scruples, with regard to the Lawfulness of the Action. They appointed L 3 the

the Silence of the Night, as a Season most proper for the Perpetration of so horrid and execrable a Crime. At the Time agreed upon, they met in a Body, and like so many enraged Furies, put their bloody Purpose in Execution. Armed with Resolution, (by a Reflection upon their own Danger, if they should miscarry) they boldly went through with what they intended: They environed their Master's House, and resolutely forced their way into that Apartment, where he himself lay fast asleep. To dispatch him at once, in this Situation, they thought a Favour too great to be conferred upon him: They chose rather to rouse him up, that so his Mind might be the more forcibly struck with the unavoidable Death he saw himself obliged to undergo. Being awaked, they gagg'd him, lest by his Cries he should alarm his Family, or the Neighbourhood. Secure of his Silence, they plied his Ears with the most terrible Threats, and presented to his Eyes the most formidable and glaring Instruments of Death. After this, they, by turns, wounded his most tender and sensible Parts, till his Soul took its Flight from a Body fo inhumanly shattered by the cruel Hands of a Set of Men, for whom Villains would be a Name too mild and gentle. The Head of the Family being thus fecretly dispatched, they fell to work with the rest. His Wife, without regard to her Merit, and her former Kindness

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to them, fell first a Sacrifice to their brutal Lust, and then to their unparallell'd Cruelty. The rest of the Family had all a Fate, as cruel as these Monsters could invent. One Vice generally lays a Foundation for another. The Murders committed upon this Family, obliged the Negroes to go further: They saw themselves exposed to imminent Danger, as long as there were any white Men in the Plantation. They thought they would be secure, if they were treated in the same manner with their Master. Therefore, they proceeded to complete the

Tragedy.

All the Barbarities that could either be invented by Cruelty, or committed by Rage and Fury, were practifed upon these unhappy Men. Some of them were indeed dispatched in a Minute: This was not owing to the Mercy of the Negroes, but to the Haste they were in. Others this villainous Set of Murderers tortured in the most inhuman manner. Dread of being apprehended by the neighbouring Plantations, forced them to take Meafures, which hitherto they had not thought of: They knew their Fate, if they should happen to be taken: And as the Execution of Justice is always terrible to Villains, so they inclined to make their Escape. The Mountains to the Leeward seem'd the most convenient Shelter for them: Thither they went in a Body, and from time to time have been joined by fuch large Parties of run-away Ne-

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groes, that their Body is now become formidable to the Inhabitants; and the Remains of these Wretches, to this Day, continue to murder and rob in that Part of the Island.

Altho' every one lamented this unhappy Accident, yet few took sufficient Care to pursue these wretched Murderers, till they had secured themselves in almost inaccessible Fastnesses. Several slying Parties were indeed sent out; but as these were only a Parcel of raw Men, detached from the neighbouring Plantations, they returned with Loss of many of their own Party, occasioned by the Heat, and intolerable Fatigue of marching in the Woods.

About this Time the Spanish Embassador was making daily and successful Remonstrances to the English Court, relating to the Depredations committed by the Pyrates: And as it was well known, that the Governor of Jamaica countenanced them, the chief Complaints were laid against his Conduct; which had such Insluence on the Court, that Sir Thomas Lynch was at last recalled, and the Lord

Vaughan sent in his Room.

This Nobleman, having express Instructions to discourage and pursue the Pyrates, set about it with the greatest Eagerness; and having proclaimed his Intentions of preserving inviolably the Peace betwixt his Master and the King of Spain, he recalled all the Commissions which his Predecessor had given, and forbid every Act of Hostility. In Consequence of this,

this, he took care to hang up a great many of these unfortunate Fellows, who being used to that desperate Course of Life, could not find in their Hearts to give it over. Several of these had landed in Cuba, and committed their usual Barbarities. But now Jamaica was no longer a Resuge; the Governor secured them on their sirst Arrival, and hanged them every one: This just, tho' severe Usage, deterred others, and so they soon dwindled to nothing.

The Planters, who had found their Account, by encouraging the Pyrates, were very uneasy, and still privately supported them; but they were so inconsiderable, that they never durst attempt any thing of Moment: And the Gentlemens Views being thus frustrated, they turned their Thoughts to improving their Estates, and very soon came to equal any of the other Colonies, (Barbadoes not excepted) for both the Goodness and Quantity of their

Sugars.

The People here date the Beginning of the Colony's Decline, from the Time of the Lord Vaughan's Government; for besides his putting a Stop to that Flow of Riches, which daily poured upon the Island by the Pyrates Means, another Step of the English Court equally discouraged the new Settlers, and reduced them to very pressing Difficulties.

This was occasioned by the Institution of the Royal African Company. King Charles granted

granted them a Charter, bearing Date September 26th 1672. to trade to Guiney, Angolo, and South Barbary, exclusive of all others. A great many Persons of the first Rank, and greatest Distinction, were concerned in this Company, such as the Duke of York, afterwards King James II. Prince Rupert, and the Earl of Shaftsbury. The Influence of these eminent Men procured fuch an ample Charter, that in virtue of it they pretended to monopolize the whole Trade to these Parts, and make Prize of all Ships that came from any of these Countries with Negroes, or other

Merchandize, without their Licence.

This unjust Monopoly gave a great deal of Uneafiness to the Colonies, particularly Jamaica; for the Planters used before, at very easy Rates, to supply their Plantations with what Slaves they wanted; and now they were reduced to a Necessity, of not only defifting from that useful Commerce, but likewife to buy, at extravagant Rates, fuch as they had Occasion for: At first they continued to trade as before, but all their Ships were feized, and the Goods condemned. 'Tis impossible to recount the Hardships which that Company made the Colonies suffer. One Planter lost upwards of 10,000 l. The Men of War were fitted out, with no other Defign, but to prey upon the Interlopers. The Governor of Barbadoes had like to have been turned out of his Place, for feeming only to oppose

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oppose these hard Measures. In Jamaica the Gentlemen had a little more Spirit, than tamely to sit down with their Loss; Mr. Bernard prosecuted the Company's Agents for an unjust Seizure, and recovered his Ship and Cargo. But however, the Tyranny of that Company, and their Agents, was quite insupportable, and would have soon effected the Ruin of the Sugar Islands, if the Parliament had not timely interposed, and laid the Trade of Africa, in a great measure, open.

'Twas about this critical Time, that the Court of England thought fit to quit all Pretensions to Surinam, and give it up to the Dutch. The English Colony was, in Consequence of this Cession, transplanted to Famaica, whither they came to the Number of 1200, poor, fickly, and distressed. The Gentlemen who were commissioned to remove them, acted a very honest Part; and when they came hither, they were well received, and had a large Tract of Land in the Precinct of St. Elizabeth's, laid out for their Use. In that Part of the Island they settled, and being industrious, soon became considerable. Their Pasterity enjoy some of the finest Estates in Jamaica, and some of them are now in the most considerable Offices of Trust and Profit. This/Addition of Hands did the Island a considerable Service; and the kind Entertainment they met with, made them forget their former Hardships. Indeed, the Removal

Removal of the Colony of Surinam, was the only good thing that befel Jamaica in the

Lord Vaughan's Time.

The Memory of that Nobleman is very odious here, and they date their Decline, as I have faid, from his Government; they charge him with unbounded Avarice, that he fold his own Domesticks, and laid intolerable Imposts on all kind of Goods. The Council and Affembly were little minded; the Governor loved to rule without their Affistance, and followed the Method which was then in Vogue in England, to take as little of the Advice of Parliaments as could be done. However, I am apt to imagine, these severe Censures may proceed from the hearty Opposition that Nobleman made to the Pyrates; for he pursued them with the utmost Rigour and Severity: By this means the Island missed its wonted Opportunities of amassing the Wealth of the New World; and, no doubt, this gave the Planters a sincere Distaste at a Man who stopt that Stream, which poured fuch plentiful Showers of Riches upon them; and at last, the Clamour against his Management became so universal, that the Court thought it prudent to recal him, and fend the Right Honourable Charles Earl. of Carlifle in his room.

This Nobleman arrived at Jamaica in the Year 1678, and immediately set about to redress the Grievances of the People: He relaxed

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relaxed a great deal of that stern Severity, which had appeared but too much in the precedent Government; and made a great many excellent Regulations for the better Defence of the Colony, which to this Day subsist.

The Island was at this time alarmed with Fears of a French Invasion. The Count dEstrées was in these Seas, with a fine Squadron of Men of War; and as, at this time, there was a bad Understanding betwixt the English and French Courts, this Colony was afraid there might be Designs against them; but these Apprehensions were groundless, and their Thoughts were diverted from that Fear, with Reports of Plots in England; for just before the execrable Popish Plot came to Light, and as a great many silly Rumours were designedly spread, the Island was put into a terrible Consternation.

The Earl of Carlifle, finding his Health impaired, and the Warmness of the Climate to disagree with his Constitution, returned to England, leaving, as the fittest Man, the brave Sir Henry Morgan to govern, till the

King's Pleasure should be known.

Sir Henry was not yet fallen under the Displeasure of the Court, and was looked upon as one that was the ablest (in case of any Trouble) to rule a Colony, the Interests of which he understood so well; and seeing a Necessity of pursuing the same Measures with

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the former Governors, and considering the strict Orders of the English Court, he set about extirpating the Pyrates, who yet remained, with his usual Resolution. How far such a Conduct can be excused in him, who had been the most notorious of them all, I shall not determine; altho' there was, at the same time, a great Disparity of Circumstances betwixt them; for Sir Henry never acted without an express Commission, which he imagined sanctified his Actions; and whenever it was recalled, he too laid aside his former Course of Life, and committed not one pyratical Action, after the Government withdrew its Protection.

These, on the other hand, were such who acted against express Declarations, without any Commission, and who deserved to be rooted out, for disobeying the Orders of their King, and his lawful Officers: But which way soever the Case is, 'tis past all Doubt, that Sir Henry pursued and destroyed them.

He got Intelligence of one Everson, a notorious old Pyrate, that was in Cow-bay, with a Sloop and a Barqua-longa, well manned and armed, and immediately dispatched a Sloop, which was an excellent Sailor, to fight and destroy him. He cautiously went about the Work; and having set Centinels to prevent the Pyrates getting Notice of his Approach, came up with him. A smart Engagement ensued, which was maintained for a

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long while, with the greatest Courage and Resolution; but a Shot happening to kill the Captain of the Pyrate Sloop, his Men became disheartened, and they were soon boarded: Some of them escaped in Canoes, but the greatest Part submitted, and had Quarter given.

Sir Henry refused to do Justice on these Offenders himself, but sent them to the Governor of Cartagena by Captain Haywood, where they met with the Fate which their

Crimes deserved.

He continued in the Government till the Year 1682, and still behaved in such a manner, as gained him universal Esteem. He shewed the World, that he equally understood the Arts of Peace and of War; that he was qualified to govern as well as to fight, and that in all Stations of Life he was a great Man. I have feen here a curious Picture of Sir Henry, done at his own Defire; he is drawn at Length, and there appears something so awful and majestick in his Countenance, that I'm persuaded none can look upon it without a kind of Veneration. As he was only at first a Servant to a Planter in Barbadoes, and tho' that State of Life be the meanest and most disgraceful, which a white Man can be in, yet he never disowned the Fact; yea, so far to the contrary, that the Chain and Pot-hooks are painted by his own Order in the Picture I spoke of just now. Thefe

These are Instruments which are used to punish Slaves and Servants, when they commit a Fault; and such an Instance of a truly great Soul, which, amidst almost a regal Pomp, was not unmindful of its pristine State, is rarely to be found; at least, I'm sure, it was never before or since known in this Island.

Sir Thomas Lynch was again made Governor; he arrived in the Year 1682. His encouraging Pyrates first turned him out, and his Loyalty to the King, which he expressed

on all Occasions, restored him.

The first thing he fet about, was regulating feveral Abuses, which had insensibly crept into the Government; and finding that their Laws were but ill patched up, and worse observed, he fummoned a Body of Men, which composed the best Assembly Jamaica ever saw. With indefatigable Care and Industry, they compiled a Body of Statutes, which are so well fuited to the Circumstances of this Place, that fucceeding Affemblies have added very little to these excellent Regulations. In my next I shall give you a summary Account of them, which, at one View, will shew you the Difference betwixt our Statutes here, and those of the British Legislature, and enable you to form an Idea of the Difference of being governed according to the one and the other. But before I conclude this Letter, I shall obferve, That this Affembly, great as it was, feem'd to be actuated too much by Party-principles;

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ciples; for, on the News of the Presbyterian Plot, the Governor went and acquainted them with it, and they attended his Excellency foon after with an Address, that a Day might be folemnly set apart for a Thanksgiving, on account of its happy Discovery, and timely Pre-Indeed they feemed to be agitated with the same persecuting Spirit, which at that time too much prevailed in England. was then fashionable to be severe to Dissenters; and tho' Jamaica was never troubled with many, yet they, in their officious Wisdom, took care to provide against them. Several Laws were enacted, and feveral Penalties annexed, against those of a different Communion from the Church of England; and they thought it Merit to make a Stir against a Set of honest Men, who never intended to trouble them about their Non-conformity.

This shews us how far the best may be misled, and what a fatal Influence a mistaken Zeal may have, even on good Minds; for altho' their Principles might have induced them to support the Church of England, yet good ones could never teach them to persecute Dissenters, much less to make penal Laws against Nonconformity, when neither the Name nor Thing

was hardly known among them.

I am,
S I R,
Yours, &c.



LETTER VII.

SIR,

HERE present you with an Abstract of the Laws now in Force in Jamaica; they were mostly compiled, as I said in my last, during the second Government of

Sir Thomas Lynch, by a Set of as eminent Men as ever composed an Assembly. The Laws of Jamaica are printed at large in a neat Octavo Volume, and a very curious and exact Abstract made of them in a general Collection of the Plantation Laws, which I have mostly made use of in the following Detail, and added, both from the printed Statutes of 1718. and likewise from those fince enacted, which are kept in the Secretary's Office, such as are most material, or deserve Notice.

You will observe, that whatever bad Character be given of this Place, its Wickedness proceeds not from a Want of good Regulations; but from a Neglect of putting them in Execution.

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Of ALE-HOUSES and TAVERNS.

None shall have any Licence from the Governor to retail any strong Liquors, without Certificate under the Hands of Two Justices of Peace, and good Security given in the Secretary's Office of 100 l. Penalty, not to suffer any Disorders in his House.

None shall sell Rum or Rum punch, without Licence from the Justices in Sessions, and Securities first given, under the Penalty of

40 s. for every Offence.

None shall entertain in their Houses, so licensed, any to tipple or drink in time of divine Service, under Penalty of 20 s. and the Person or Persons so sound, each of them 5 s. to be levy'd by Distress upon any one Justice of Peace's Warrant.

Whoever shall dishonour GOD by open Profaneness or Blasphemy, shall, upon Conviction, be fined 20 l. or more, for every such Offence. Servants shall be liable to such corporal Punishment as the Judges shall think

meet, Life and Limb excepted.

Every Person so licensed, as aforesaid, who suffers common Gaming, shall forfeit 10 l. and he that wins any Money by Fraud or salse Dice, shall forfeit treble the Value thereof upon Conviction; and no Sum above 40 s. won at any Game or by Betting, shall be recoverable. All Bonds, Contracts and Secu-

M 2 rities

rities for above that Sum, won as aforesaid, shall be void.

Provided any Maker of Rum may, by himself or Servants, sell and vend the same

pure and unmix'd.

The foresaid Penalties shall be one Half to the King, towards the Support of the Government, the other to the Informer, who shall sue for the same in any Court of Record in this Island, wherein no Essoign, &c. shall be allowed.

Of ARRESTS and EXECUTION.

None shall be adjudged Free-holders of known Residence, unless he possess five Acres planted, or a House of 100 l. per Annum on his Free-hold, and all others shall be liable to Arrests.

Sugar, Ginger, Anotto, Indico, Cacao, Cotton or Pimento, taken upon Writ of Venditioni exponas, shall be carried to Port-Royal at the Defendant's Charge, and there appraised by the Church-wardens upon Oath; which Goods, so appraised, shall be by the Provost Marshal delivered to the Plaintiff, and by him accepted for so much Money.

The said Church-wardens shall receive from the Desendant 4 d. per Pound for what they shall appraise; and if they refuse to appraise, upon Oath, the Goods so taken, he or they so resusing, shall forfeit for every such Resusal Letter 7. of JAMAICA. 165
101. Half to the King, and Half to the Informer, to be recovered by Bill, Plaint, &c. in any Court, &c.

Of ASSEMBLY.

In every Assembly hereaster to be called by the King's Writ in this Island, there shall be three Representatives for the Parish of St. Katharine's, Port-Royal, and Kingston, and two for every other Parish in the Island; and the Provost Marshal shall give Notice to the Parties elected within Ten Days after their Election.

Every Person elected must be a Free-holder in the Island, and none can vote at an Election, but Free-holders in the same Parish.

Of Building.

None shall build at Port-Royal within Thirty Feet of the High-water Mark, excepting the Wherry-place; and such Houses as are already, or shall be built within Thirty Feet, shall be taken down and removed within Six Months, or otherwise the Proprietors shall build a strong substantial Wharf of Thirty Feet broad.

No House shall be built farther Northward on the Harbour, than Major Bach's, and Captain Swimmer's.

When any Fire shall happen at Port-Royal, or any other Town, Two or Three of the chief Officers of the same Town or Parish shall order the pulling down or blowing up of such Houses, as they shall judge meet for stopping the Fire; and if the Fire be stopped by such means, the said Houses shall be paid for by those whose Houses in the said Town shall not be burnt; for which a Tax shall be made and levied among them: But if the House where the Fire begins shall be judged sit to be pulled down to prevent the spreading, the Owner of such House shall have no Satisfaction.

Owners of Lands and Houses on the South-side of Port-Royal, from Fort-Rupert to the House of Edward Watkins, shall serve their respective Proportions of Land joining on the Sea, with a substantial Wharf of lasting Timber, under the Penalty of 10 l. for every Year's Neglect; One-third to the King, One to the Poor of the Parish, and One-third to the Informer. For their Encouragement to wharf, the Church street shall be added to their Lands and Free-hold proportionally, as they bound upon the same, they leaving a Passage of Eighteen Feet open.

None shall build nearer to the Church on

the South-fide, than what is now built.

None shall fetch or dig up any Stones from the Riffs below High-water Mark, from the East and South Parts of the Bays lying off PortLetter 7. of JAMAICA. 167

Port-Royal, &c. Penalty, 18 1. for every Offence; nor cast out any Ballast in any Harbour or Bay; Penalty 20 1. for every Offence.

No Wrecks shall be laid up in the Harbour of Port-Royal; and if any decayed Vessel sink there, it shall be removed by the Owner within one Month, or he shall forfeit 20 l. for every Month it lies.

The Fines and Penalties of this Act shall be One third to the King, One-third to the Church-wardens of the respective Parishes,

and One-third to the Informer.

Every Person that shall entertain any Seaman belonging to any trading Ship, in any Harbour of this Island, after Eight at Night, shall forfeit 40 s. One-half to the Poor of the Parish, the other to the Master or Commander of the Ship, to be recovered by a Justice of Peace's Warrant, as other Debts not exceeding 40 s.

Of CATTLE.

All Plantations bounding on Savannahs, High-ways, &c. and Pastures make out of Wood-lands, shall be sufficiently fenced in.

If any Damage shall be done by any Stock in any Plantation so fenced, the Damage and the Sufficiency of the Fence shall be determined by the Oath of Three Free-holders, and the Owner of the Stock shall pay double the Damage done, to be recovered before any M 4 Iustice

Justice of Peace, if not exceeding 40 s.; if

more, in any Court of Record.

No Person whatsoever shall kill any Cattle, Horse, Mare, Mule, or Assinego, under the Penalty of 15 l. to be recovered in any Court of Record, by the Owner or Proprietor of the said Beast.

All Owners of Neat Cattle shall keep One white Man at each Pen, and Two white Men at every Pen whereunto belong above Two hundred Head of Cattle, Penalty 20 l. for every white Man wanting for the Space of Three Months, Half to the Poor of the Parish, Half to the Informer.

All Owners of Cattle shall pen them once in Three Nights at least, or pay the Damage

double which such Cattle shall do.

Strays shall belong to the Proprietor of the Ground where taken up, provided he cries the Stray Three Court-Days with proper Descriptions, and turns the same loose in the feeding Grounds, with a With about the Neck for a Year; and if not claimed in that time, the Property shall be his. Ear-mark'd or burnt-mark'd Cattle shall belong to the right Owners, if claimed any time after the Expiration of the Year.

The Clerk of each respective Court of Record in this Island shall make Entry, and toll all sorts of Cattle that shall be sold from one Person to another, which are to be vonched by Two sufficient and known Per-

fons;

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fons; which Entry and Toll shall be good against all former Sales, or any other Title, except where the *Provost-Marshal* has levied the same in Execution; the Clerk's Fee for

such Entry, 1 s.

No Person whatsoever shall carry Fire, or smoak Tobacco in any Savannah Plantation or High-way, under Penalty of 10 s. for every Offence to him that shall sue; and further to pay all Damages that may happen; and in case of Inability, to be whipt at the Discretion of any one Justice of Peace; provided Owners of Land may carry Fire in their own Plantations, but liable to satisfy the Damage that may happen to others.

None shall drive or ride in any Savannah as a common Horse-catcher, without first giving Security for their Honesty, and obtaining Leave from the Proprietors of the Savannah, or the major Part of them, under the Penalty of 20 l. One-third to the King, one to the Proprietors of the Savannah, and

the other to him that shall sue.

No common Driver or Horse-catcher shall sell or barter any Horse, Mare, or other Cattle, without bringing Two sufficient Evidences to vouch for him before the Clerk of some Court, that he bred, or otherwise came lawfully by them, under the Penalty of 50 l. to be disposed as before; and the Buyer, without such Vouchment, shall forseit 20 l.

If any Driver or Horse-catcher shall fraudulently and designedly put any false Mark, or desace any old Mark, he shall for such

Offence be guilty of Felony.

If any Keeper or Owner of Goats, shall suffer his Goats to feed upon another Man's Land, the Owner of the Land shall recover his Damage for such Trespass, as the Jury shall give in any Court of Record, and full Costs of Suit in the said Action.

No common Horse-catcher shall ride or drive in any Savannah, without giving 100 l. Bond, with sufficient Security to the Justices in open Sessions, under Penalty of 10 l. for every Offence; and having so done, he shall obtain an Order from the Justices then sitting, to ride and drive, &c.

No fuch common Horse-catcher shall mark any Cattle, without giving Notice in the Parish-church the Sabbath-day before, under

Penalty of 20 1.

Of CHARITABLE USES.

All Gifts, Grants, Conveyances and Devises of Lands, Tenements, Rents, Goods and Chattels, to any pious, charitable or publick Use, as for Maintenance of several Ministers, erecting of Churches, Chapels, Schools, Colleges, Alms-houses or Hospitals, or their Maintenance, already made, or to be made within the Space of Twenty Years next ensuing, are hereby

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bereby confirmed and made good, according to the true Intent and Meaning of the Donors or Devisers, (excepting out of this Act superstitious Uses) or for the Maintenance of any Teacher not lawfully ordained and allowed by the Church of England.

Of Church-WARDENS and PARISHES.

All Goods in Casks landed upon, or shipped from the Bridge at Passage-Fort, shall pay 1 s. per Tun, and so proportionally.

The Church-wardens of St. Katharine's shall take care that the said Bridge be kept in sufficient Repair, under Penalty of 10 l. Half to the Informer, and Half to the Poor of the Parish.

The faid Church-wardens shall appoint Collectors of the said Duty, and employ the same to the Use and Behoof of the said Parish of St. Katharine's.

If any refuse to pay the said Duty, the Collector may detain in his Possession the Goods of the Persons refusing, till Satisfaction.

The Minister of each Parish shall be one of the Vestry, and no Order shall be good, if timely Notice were not first given to him to be there.

The High-ways from the Ford of Rio Core to Major Needbam's Walk, shall be maintained by the Inhabitants of St. Thomas in the Vale.

A Line from the Head of Swift River to the South Bounds of St. Anne's, shall be the easterly and westerly Bounds of the Parishes of St. Elizabeth and Clarendon.

The Place called and known by the Name of King ston, in the Parish of St. Andrew's, on the Harbour of Port-Royal, bounded South by the Harbour, West and North by the Lands of Sir William Beeston, and continued from a Caltabash on the Northern Corner, by a strait Line, to the Foot of the long Mountain, and from thence till it meet with the Bounds of the Parish of Port-Royal, shall be for ever hereaster esteemed, to all Intents and Purposes, an entire and distinct Parish, separate from the Parish of St. Andrew's, and called the Town and Parish of King ston.

And shall enjoy all Benefits, Privileges, Rights and Immunities, that any Parish or Peci net within this Island has, or ought to have; and particularly, that there shall be chosen Three Representatives to serve in every Assembly, after the first Prorogation of this present Assembly, for the said Town and

Parish of King ston.

Also there shall be erected, established, and held in the said Town, a Quarter-Session for the Peace, and a Court of Common-Pleas, with the same Power as was lately exercised at Port-Royal; which Court shall be held once every Two Months, and the Sessions every Three Months.

The

The Receiver-General, Secretary, and Naval Officer, shall by themselves, or Deputies, keep in the Town of King fton their feveral Offices, as heretofore in Port-Royal, on Penalty of 50 1. each for every Month's Neglect, Half to the King, Half to the Informer, to be recovered in the supreme Court, wherein no Effoign, &c.

Of Courts and Proceedings at Law.

The Judges of the supreme Court of Judicature shall have Cognizance of all Pleas, civil, criminal, and mix'd, as fully as the King's-Bench, Common-Pleas, and Exchequer have in England; and the same Court shall be constantly kept at St. Jago de la Vega, and not elsewhere, once every Three Months, of which there shall be Five Judges, Three of the Quorum.

The feveral inferior Courts of Common-Pleas in this Island, shall have Jurisdiction, where Free-hold is not concerned, to the Value of 20 1. and no more; and shall be kept once every Three Months, provided the Judges of the Court at Port-Royal may keep the same once every Two Months; and the Chancellor here may appoint Justices in any

inferior Courts.

None shall execute the Office of a Judge in any of the foresaid Courts, till he has taken the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy in

Profit, Benefit or Advantage, but what is allowed them by the Acts of this Island, under the Penalty of 500 h

The Judges of the several Courts shall order and establish Rules and Orders, for the regular Practice in their Courts, as fully, to all Intents, as the Judges in the several Courts

in England legally do.

No Counsellor or Attorney shall be admitted to practise in any of the said Courts, till he hath taken the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, &c. under Penalty of 201. And whatsoever Counsellors or Attornies shall, by Negligence or Ignorance, mistake his Client's Cause, shall suffer a Non-suit; he or they, so offending, shall by Rule of Court, without any surther Process, pay the Party aggrieved stull Costs of Suit.

The Judges may at all times, upon Motion in Court, order Amendments in matter of Form only; and shall not, upon a Writ of Error or Motion in Arrest, reverse any Judg-

ment for Matter of Form only.

No Action of Waste shall be brought in any Court of this Island, nor any Free-holder of known Residence arrested by any Process out of the said Courts; Penalty 20 1. to be paid by the Plaintiff to the Party so arrested; and all Proceedings thereupon shall be void.

No Suit shall be in the supreme Court of Judicature for any Matter or Cause, under the Value of 20 l. upon the Penalty of 20 l. to be paid by the Plaintiff; but such Causes shall be tried in the inferior Courts; provided the Inhabitants of St. Katharine's, St. Dorothy's, St. Thomas in the Vale's, and St. John's, may sue in the supreme Court for any Sum, till they shall have petty Courts erected in their own Parishes.

In all inferior Courts, upon Summons, and the Defendant doth not appear, Judgment shall go by Default, as in the supreme Court, the *Provost-Marshal* making Oath in open Court, that the Party was legally summoned

Fourteen Days before.

Upon a Declarator exhibited in Debt, upon Speciality, or a Concessit solvere, and disclosing the special Matter to the chief Judge of the supreme Court, that the Debitor is either gone off the Island, or a Nonest inventus returned, an Attachment shall issue against the Goods and Chattels, &c. of the Debitor, in whose Hands soever; and upon Conviction, and the Plaintiff swearing the Debt due, and no Part paid, and giving Security to restore the same with triple Damages, if disproved, he shall have Judgment, to recover his Debt out of the said Goods, Chattels, Monies, &c. but if any Attorney appear, and put in Bail, the Attachment shall be dissolved; if the Parties in whose Hands the Goods, &c. are attached,

shall part with the same before the Attachment be fatisfied or diffolved, they shall make Satisfaction to the Plaintiff out of their own

proper Estates.

All Debts not exceeding 40 s., where the Debitor is gone off, ut supra, shall be re-coverable by any one Justice of Peace, by Attachment in the same Manner and Form. as above-faid.

All Summons from any Court shall be delivered to the Party, or left at his Dwellinghouse, Fourteen Days before the several Courts, by a fworn Marshal, except at Port-Royal; and there it shall be delivered Ten Days before the Court, otherwise the Defendant not bound to compear.

Replevins, foreign Attachments at the fupreme Court, and Warrants of Arrest, may

be served at any time.

No Execution shall be taken out, or executed, till Twenty-eight Days after Judgment, except at Port-Royal; and there Execution shall issue Ten Days after Judgment. Negroes Houses, nor any manner of Utenfils belonging to a Plantation and Work, shall be taken in Execution, where the Defendant shall offer other Goods to satisfy the Debts and Cofts.

The Defendant shall have Liberty to carry his Goods, taken in Execution, to Market, and there fell them, first acquainting the Marshal who took them upon the Execution,

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that so he may receive the Produce thereof; if the Defendant neglect to sell them, till Ten Days before the next Court, the Marshal shall take the Goods, and sell them by pub-

lick Outery.

If Negroes Houses and Utensils be taken in Execution, for want of other Goods, shey shall not be removed, till a Venditioni exponas issue, impowering the Provost-Marshal to sell them, or, in case they be made away, to levy and sell any other Goods, or in Default of Goods, to take the Defendant's Body, &c.

After the Goods shall be sold by publick Outcry, the Money shall be paid to the Plantiff, or his Order, within Ten Days, under the Penalty of half the Debt, to be received by

the Plaintiff to his own Use.

The Marshal shall not take in Execution Negroes, or Utenfils, ut supra, if the Defendant shews him any Stock or Cattle, in a Penn, which may be fold by publick Outery, as aforesaid.

All Accidents that happen, while Goods taken in Execution remain in the Defendant's Possession, shall be borne and made good

by the Defendant.

Where the Body of the Defendant shall be taken in Execution; yet, if any Effects afterwards appear, the Plaintiff may take out another Execution, and levy his Debt upon the same.

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Where

Where Prisoners in Execution have nothing to maintain themselves, upon Oath thereof before Two neighbouring Justices of Peace, and Notice to all their Creditors Ten Days before the supreme Court, they shall be publickly let to Hire at the said Court; and the Monies rising from the Hire shall be paid to such Persons as the Court shall appoint, to be equally divided among the Creditors. If any Creditor shall refuse to consent, that the Prisoner shall be let to Hire, such Creditor shall pay the Prisoner 3 s. 6 d. weekly.

If the Prisoner so let to Hire shall, at any time after, come to have an Estate, having not satisfied his Debts, another Execution upon the former Judgment shall be taken out against his Goods and Chattels (vide infra,

Prisoners).

If the *Provost-Marshal* or Deputy shall do otherwise than as above directed, or ask or receive any Mile-money, for executing a *Venditioni exponas*, he shall forfeit 100 l. for every such Offence, half to the King, half to the Party grieved.

Other Fines mentioned in this Act, and not expresly disposed of, shall be half to the King, half to the Informer, to be recovered in any Court of Record in this

Island.

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Of DEBTS.

A Creditor may stop Arrest, and detain in Prison by due Process of Law, any Debitor that attempts to depart this Island, when the Martial Law is in Force, and the Common Law suspended, (vide Militia) till he shall pay or satisfy the Debt; and in case of such going off or Departure, a foreign Attachment may issue against his Goods or Chattels, as in time of the Common Law; any thing in any former Act seeming to the contrary notwith-standing.

Of FEES.

The several Fees due in the Secretary's Office, and in the supreme Court; the Provost-Marshal's Fees; the Fees of inserior Courts and their Marshals, of the Clerk of the Peace and Coroners; the Fees of the Great Seal, of the Surveyors and Lawyers; the Fees of the Naval Force, and of the Clerk of the Market, are all ascertain'd and set down; for which see the Act at large.

No Still-yards shall be used for weighing in any Market or Huckster's Shop, under the Penalty of 20 s. for each Time, half to the Poor of the Parish, half to the In-

former.

N 2

No

No Butcher or Turtler shall sell any Meat or Turtle by Retail, but in open Market, under Penalty of 40 s. to the Poor of the Parish, recoverable before any Justice of the Peace.

What Officer soever shall demand or take any greater Fees than are allowed by this Act, and be thereof duly convicted, he shall forfeit roo! half to the King, and half to the Informer.

If any Counsellor, Lawyer or Attorney, ask or receive greater Fees than are established by this Act, and thereof be convicted, he shall forfeit 10 l. to the Party grieved, and be uncapable of practising any more in this Island.

Of HIGH-WAYS.

The Veftry of each Parish shall, upon every third Monday in January, chuse Four or more Freeholders, each having Thirty Acres of Freehold, to be Surveyors for the Year ensuing; and each Vestry-man neglecting, shall forfeit 40 s. in Default of the Vestry, the Justices shall appoint.

Which Surveyors, so chosen as appointed, shall within Ten Days procure themselves to be sworn before a Justice, for the faithful and diligent Performance of the Office, upon

the Penalty of 201. Sterling.

The faid Surveyors, having viewed the Defects in the High-ways and Bridges, shall, within

within fixteen Days, inform the Justices and Vestry thereof, who shall order a Tax for the Amendment by the last of February; or else the Surveyors shall make such Tax in Writing to be confirmed by Two Justices, &c.

The High-ways shall be Sixty Feet wide, in standing Wood Forty, where the Wood is only on one Side, and Twenty-four in open

Ground.

Where a new Path or Road is wanting, or old Ways may with more Conveniency be turned or altered, any Justice of Peace shall, on Request, issue his Warrant to the next Constable to summon a Jury, who shall view, lay out, or alter such Paths or Roads with most Conveniency, upon their Oaths; which shall be filed and recorded at the next Quarter-Sessions of that Parish, under the Hands of the Surveyor and Jury. And the Surveyor that neglects his Duty herein, shall forseit 20 l.

All Acts and Doings, touching the Ways, are to be recorded in the Vestry-Book; which Record in all Places shall be deemed good

Evidence.

Surveyors may issue their Warrants to the Constable, or Tything-man, to warn in Workers, or to levy Money according to the Tax or Rate aforesaid. And whoever fails to send in his Proportion of Workers, shall pay 3 s. per Day upon Conviction of his Default.

Every

Premises, shall forseit 10 l. Every Vestry-man, Surveyor, Constable, Juror, and Clerk of the Vestry, (where no Penalty is before set) 5 l. for each Offence. Which Forseitures shall be to the Use of the High-ways, to be recovered in any Court of Record, &c.

Such Paths or Roads as have been used for seven Years past to publick and known Springs, Rivers, and Watering-places, shall be laid out and returned to the Sessions, and there siled down and recorded in such manner as is set down above. And where new Fences on both Sides of the Path shall be needful, they shall be made and maintained by the Precinct.

The Path or Road now used from the Orange-River Plantation in the Parish of St. Mary's, unto the Plantation late of Andrew Holloway at Wagwater, and so into the Parish of St. Andrew's, shall be a publick Road, or King's High-way, between the Two

Parishes of St. Mary's and Andrew's.

The Path or Road from Annotta-River-Bay, in the Parish of St. George's, leading towards St. Andrew's, shall, by its nearest Course, fall into the Path coming from the said Orange-River; and the same shall be a publick Road, or the King's High-way, between the Parishes of St. George's and St. Andrew's.

The Surveyors of the High-ways for the Parish of St. Mary's shall, as oft as Need shall require, clear and mend the Road from the Orange-

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Orange-River to the Ford at the Foot of the Hill at Little Tom's-River. And the Parish of St. George shall clear their Road from Annotta-Bay unto the said Place. And the Parish of St. Andrew's shall clear the said Ford and Road leading from thence unto the said Holloway's Plantation at Wagwater, and so forward into the Parish of St. Andrew's.

The respective Surveyors of the High-ways of St. Mary's, St. George's, and St. Andrew's, shall be subject to the like Pains and Penalties for their Neglect; and in the same manner to be recovered and applied, as is appointed in

he AEt for High-ways.

Where it shall at any time be found necessary, that the said Paths, or any of them, be turned or altered, it shall be done in such manner as, in the said Act for the Highways,

is appointed.

Church-wardens and Surveyors of the Highways shall proceed in the Discharge of their Duties, and the Justices and Vestries in the respective Parishes and Precincts, as well when Martial Law is in Force, as at any other time, and under the like Penalties for Neglect.

This Act to continue in Force during the present War with France, and no longer.

HUNTING.

None shall hunt any Gang of Dogs within four Miles of any Crawl or Settlement, except N 4 on

on his own Land, or Leave from the Pro-

prietor; Penalty 10 1.

None shall set any Snare or Engine, in any Place whatsoever, except his own planted Ground, under Penalty of 40 s. for every time he so offends, and to pay all Damages that may happen.

JUSTICES of PEACE.

All Debts, Trespasses, and other Matters not exceeding 40 s. (where the Titles of Lands are not concerned) shall be heard and determined, without Appeal, by any Justice of Peace of this Island; who, upon Complaint made, shall grant a Warrant or Summons; and in case of Non-appearance, shall issue out a Warrant of Contempt to the Constable, to bring the Contemper before him; and may, if he see Cause, fine the Contemner, not above 10 s. for the Use of the Parish.

After Judgment given, the Justice may grant a Warrant of Distress directed to the Constable, to levy the Fine, Debt, Damages and Charges upon the Defendant's Goods, exposing the same to Sale, and returning the Overplus, if any be; and for want of Distress, to take the Defendant's Body in Execution.

The Justice may receive for each Warrant is. 3 d. and no more. The Constable as much, with 6 d. for each Mile he travels, provided the Whole exceeds not 5 s.

The

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The Justice shall keep a Record of all such Proceedings, under the Penalty of 10s. half to the Poor, and half to the Informer.

LAWS and LAW-SUITS.

In all Writs of Escheat hereaster to be granted, the Provost-Marshal shall inquire, by a Jury, the true Value of an Estate, which any Person dying without Heirs, was seized of; and after Office found, and returned into the supreme Court, and Judgment thereupon given and recorded, the Governor, or Commander in chief, may grant the said escheated Estate under the Broad-Seal of this Island.

Provided that a Clause be in the said Grant inserted, That if a right Heir appears, and claims within Three Years, the Grant to be void. And the Value of the said Estate shall be secured to be paid into the Treasury by the Grantee at the End of Three Years, in case no Heir claims in that time; and in case there be an Heir, then to be paid out of the Treasury to such Heir.

All Bills of Sale and Conveyances, made by Husband and Wife, and acknowledged before the Judge of any Court of Record in this Island, and recorded, shall be good and valid against the Claims of all Persons whatsoever, as if past by Fine and Recovery at Westminster.

Where any Improvement is made upon such escheated Lands, as above-said, by the Patentee during the Three Years, the Heir, before his entering on the same, shall satisfy the Patentee his Charges and Interest, for the same.

All original Acts already made, or to be made, shall be lodged in the Secretary's Office of Inrollments at St. Jago de la Vega; and the Secretary shall shew them to those who have Occasion to view the same, and give Copies of them, or any Clause in any of them; for which he shall be allowed 8 d. per Sheet, Sixteen Lines to a Sheet, and Fourteen Words to a Line. And he shall be allowed for comparing and examining any Copy, containing the whole Body of the Laws, 40 s.

The Secretary, or his lawful Deputy in his stead, shall give Bond, with good Security of 4000 l. Penalty, with Condition, That he shall well and faithfully execute the Office of Secretary, and Clerk of the Inrollments of this Island of Jamaica, and also faithfully keep and preserve in his said Office all and every the Acts of this Island, &c. and in all things else comply with the Duty of the said Office, according to the Trust reposed in him, and according to the Laws of this

Island.

MILITIA.

No Person from Fisteen to Sixty Years of Age, shall remain unlisted, in Foot or Horse,

Letter 7. of JAMAICA. 187 Horse, for the Space of Six Weeks, under

Penalty of 40 s.

Every Foot-Soldier shall be provided with a well-fixed Musket or Fuzee, or a good Pike and Sword, or Lance and Pistol. Each Musketeer shall have, when he appears, Six Charges of Powder, and one Cartouch-Box; Penalty for not appearing, 10 s. and for want of any due Accoutrements, 4 s.

Every Horse-Soldier shall be provided with a good Horse of 10 l. Value at least, with good Furniture, Pistols, Sword, and half a Pound of Powder; Penalty 6 s. for want of any due Accoutrements, and 10 s. for each time

of Absence.

Every Foot-Soldier shall have, at his Habitation, Two Pounds of good Powder, and Six Pounds of Bullet; and every Trooper, at his Place of Abode, a well-fixed Carbine, Four Pounds of fine Powder, and Twelve Pounds of sizeable Bullets; Penalty 10 s. for each Default.

A commissioned Officer shall not be compellable to list himself, by this Act, in any Company or Troop, or serve in any Capacity beneath his former Commission, unless such Person hath been degraded by a Court-Martial.

No Person listed shall depart without his Captain's Licence, on Penalty of 40 s. No Commander of a Company or Troop shall refuse to give a Discharge in Writing to any that

that is removing his Abode out of the Precincts, under Penalty of 5 l.

Any Person wounded or disabled in publick military Service, shall be cured and maintained

out of the publick Revenue.

Upon Apprehension and Appearance of publick Danger or Invasion, the Commander in chief shall put the Martial Law in Execution, and command all Things for publick Defence, with full Power and Authority, by Advice and Consent of a Council of War. But upon lodging the Colours, and discharging the Soldiers from their Arms, the Martial Law shall cease, and the Common Law revive.

The Marshal or Deputy shall not presume to arrest a Soldier within one Month after his Discharge, nor in his going or coming from the Place of Exercise; Penalty 10 l. &c.

All Damages sustained by any Person or Persons by an Invasion, or drawing together the Forces of this Island, shall, upon Application to the Governor and Council, be reasonably valued, and forthwith paid out of the publick Revenue, which, if deficient, shall be supplied by an Assembly.

No Boat or Canoe shall pass the Fort at Port-Royal, without giving Notice to the Captain there, under the Penalty of 20 s. And if the Captain hath reasonable Cause of Suspicion, he may stop the said Boat, &c.

No Person whatsoever shall fire any small Arms after Eight at Night, unless upon Alarm Letter 7. of JAMAICA. 189

or Insurrection, which is to be by the Discharge of Four Muskets or small Arms, distinctly. Offenders herein shall be punished at the Discretion of a Court-Martial, not ex-

tending to Life or Limb.

The Justices and Vestry, or major Part of them in all Parishes of this Island, adjacent to the Sea, shall raise, or cause to be levied, such Sums of Money, as shall seem necessary for maintaining Night-Watches, Guards, and Look-outs, in such Places as shall seem most proper for serving the Inhabitants, and discovering and preventing the Approach of the Enemy.

MINISTERS.

Any Two Justices in every Parish shall cause the Free-holders of such Parish to meet yearly on the second *Tuesday* in *January*, to chuse Ten Vestry-men and Two Church-wardens, Conformists to the Church of *England*.

If the Freeholders do not appear, or do not chuse, as aforesaid, the Justices may, within Ten Days after the time above-mentioned, lay a reasonable Tax on the Parish, for Maintenance of the Minister and Poor, and for erecting and repairing Churches, and making convenient Seats in them. Such as neglect their Duty herein, shall forseit 5 l.

Ministers shall demand no Fee for Christnings, Marriages, Churchings, or Burials, but

fuch

fuch as shall be allowed by the Justices and Vestry-men, under the Penalty of 5 l. half to the Poor, half to him that shall sue for the same.

The Church-wardens of every Parish shall provide one sair bound Book, wherein the Minister shall register the Births, Christnings, Marriages, and Burials of all Persons born, &c. in the said Parish, under Penalty of 5 l. for every Default, and the Person registering shall receive as Fee 15 d. and no more. Which Entries duly made, shall be taken and deemed as an authentick Record. And to falsify, raze, or imbezil such Entries, or Books of Entry, shall be punished, as the Laws of England provide against stealing, razing, or imbeziling Records.

The Parish of Port-Royal shall pay to the Minister thereof, 250 l. per Annum; St. Catharine's, 300 l. per Annum; St. Thomas's, St. Andrew's, and St. John's, each 200 l. per Annum; and all the other Parishes in this Island, each 150 l. per Annum, to their respective Ministers, as a constant yearly Salary, to be paid at their Dwelling-houses every Six Months, without any Defalcation, by equal Portions. But none shall be capable to be presented to the said Benefices, and receive the Profits of the same, unless qualified according to the Canons of the Church of England, and in Deacon and Priest's Orders.

No Minister, not duly qualified as aforesaid, shall presume to marry any Persons, under the Penalty of 100 l. One-third to the King, One to the Poor of the Parish, and the other Thirdpart to him that shall sue for the same. And no Minister shall marry any Persons, whose Banns have not been thrice published in the Parish-Church, or have a Licence from the Governor, under the like Penalty, and to the same Uses as aforesaid, or Twelve Months Imprisonment.

No Ecclesiastical Law or Jurisdiction shall have Power to inforce or establish any penal Mulcts or Punishment, in any Case whatso-

ever.

MONEY.

To falsify, diminish, wash, clip, file, or coin any of the Monies current in this Island, shall be High-Treason.

No Person whatsoever shall directly or indirectly take for the Loan of any Monies above the Value of 10 l. for the Forbearance of 100 l. for one Year, and so proportionably.

All Bonds, Contracts and Assurances, for the Payment of Monies lent, whereby there shall be received above the Rates of 10 per Cent. as aforesaid, shall be void. And whosoever shall take more, shall forfeit treble the Value of the Money lent, one Moiety to the King, the other to him that shall sue for the same.

No Gold or Silver-smith shall work, sell, or change any Wares of Gold less fine than Twenty-two Carrats, nor Wares of Silver less in Fineness than Eleven Ounces Two-penny Weight; nor without his own Mark, upon Pain of forfeiting the Value of the Thing so sold or exchanged, for not marking; and treble the Value for selling or exchanging any Gold or Silver Wares, of less Fineness than aforesaid; One half to the King, the other to the Party grieved. Whosoever shall offend the second time, shall, upon Conviction, stand one Hour in the Pillory, and lose his Ears.

NATURALIZATION.

The Governor or Commander in chief, by Instrument under the Broad-Seal of this Island, may make any Alien or Foreigner, settling and planting here, to be fully and completely naturalized, such Alien or Aliens first taking the Oath of Allegiance; and such Person so naturalized shall enjoy the Immunities and Privileges of this Island in as ample manner as any natural-born Subject.

The Governor or Commander in chiefshall receive for the same 5 l. and his Clerk for writing 10 s. and no more; and no other Perfon any Fee, on any Pretence whatsoever.

Aliens who have formerly purchased here, and fold again, or else their Estates escheated and granted, the Purchasers, &c. are

Letter 7. of JAMAICA. 193 confirmed in the Possession to their Heirs and Assigns for ever.

PLANTATIONS; vid. CATTLE.

PORT-ROYAL.

The Justices and Vestry of the Parish of Port-Royal, or the major Part of them, may tax and levy such Sums of Money upon all and every the Free-holders of that Parish, as to them shall seem meet and convenient, for the wharsing and securing the Town of Port-

Royal towards the great Sea-fide.

If any of the Freeholders of Port-Royal happen to be not Residents or Inhabitants on the Place, an Action of Debt shall lie in any Court of Record, or before a Justice of Peace, for the Church-wardens, against any of the said Persons assessed by virtue of this Act, their Heirs, Executors, Administrators, Assigns, Agents, or Attornies, for all such Sums of Money so assessed; and the Assessment so produced, shall be a sufficient Evidence for the Recovery of the said Sums.

The Receiver-General, and Naval Officer, themselves or Deputies, shall keep their Offices in *Port-Royal* as formerly: So also the Secretary of this Island, under the Penalty of 501. for every Month that any of

them shall neglect so to do.

PRI-

PRISONERS.

No Prisoner shall have the Benefit of the Act that provides, That poor Prisoners may be let to publick Hire, until he or she have first delivered into Court a perfect List of all his or her Debts, Goods, and Monies in this Island, and assign the same to the Provost-Marshal for the Use of the Creditors; and also make Oath, That he or she hath delivered in a true and perfect List, and hath not made over, concealed, or any ways secured any Goods, &c. excepting 51. for necessary Subsistence.

The Goods, Debts and Monies, so assigned and delivered to the Provost-Marshal, shall be by him accounted for, and paid to the Creditors, to be equally divided among them, as by the forementioned Act directed.

PYRATES.

Felony for any Person belonging to this Island, to serve in America, in an hostile manner, against any foreign Prince, State, or Potentate, in Amity with the King of Great-Britain, without Special Licence under the Hand and Seal of the Governor; and every such Offender, being thereof convicted in the supreme Court of Judicature, shall suffer Death without Benefit of Clergy.

All Treasons, Felonies, Pyracies, Robberies, Murders or Confederacies committed upon the Sea, or in any Haven or Bay, where the Admiral hath Jurisdiction, shall be inquired, tried, and adjudged, within this Island, as if fuch Offence had been committed upon the Land; and to that End, Commissions shall be, under the Great Seal of this Island, directed to the Judge of the Admiralty for the Time being, and fuch other Persons as by the Governor shall be named and appointed, who shall have full Power to do all things about the inquiring, hearing, adjudging, and punishing any the Crimes aforesaid, as any Commissioners under the Great Seal of England, appointed by Stat. 28. H. VIII. are impowered to do in England.

All Persons who shall knowingly entertain, conceal, trade, or correspond with any Person that shall be deemed Privateer, Pyrate, or other Offender within this Act, and shall not readily endeavour to apprehend, or cause to be apprehended, such Offender, may be prosecuted as Accessaries and Consederates.

All Commission-Officers, in their several Precincts, shall, upon Notice given that Privateers, Pyrates, &c. are within their Precincts, raise such Number of Men as needful, seize, and carry them to the Gaol; and, in case of Resistance, they may kill and destroy such Person or Persons; and all such as resist, by Ariking or siring upon any of the com-

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manded

196 A New HISTORY Letter 7. manded Party, shall be adjudged Felons without Benefit of Clergy.

QUIT-RENTS.

A Patent under the Great Seal of this Island, and recorded in the Office of Involments, shall evidence the Patentee's just Right and Title to all Lands and Houses, &c. in the said Patent granted, and be a good Bar to the King, &c.

The Keeper of the Seal, or Chancellor, shall, the next Tuesday before each Grand Court, cause all such Grants and Patents as are in Office, to be sealed at St. Jago de la Vega. And all inferior Officers concerned,

are then and there to attend.

All Lands granted, or to be granted, by the King, upon Surveys made, shall be good to the Patentee and Assigns, for all Lands within the Survey, any Misnomer, Misbounding, Mistaking of the Quantity, or other Error notwithstanding; and all such Grants shall be taken as strongly against his Majesty, as the Grants of any other Person should or ought to be.

If a Plot of a Survey being given into the Patent-Office, varies from the run and marked Lines, those Lines shall be adjudged the

true Bounds of the Lands granted.

Land granted before the 25th of June 1671. shall, for Arrears and growing Rents, pay

Letter 7. of JAMAICA. 197

pay for every 30 Acres, 1 s. yearly, and fo proportionably for every Parcel under 100 Acres, and for every 100 Acres 25.6 d. and proportionably for a greater Quantity; and for all Lands from the foresaid Time to the 12th of March 1674. One Halfpenny per Acre; and for Foot-land, One Halfpenny per Foot square, as a certain established Quitrent, and Acknowledgment to his Majesty, for ever.

The Receiver of the faid Quit-rents, shall yearly, at the Feast of St. Michael, and Ladyday, keep his Office in the Town of St. Jago de la Vega, and Port-Royal, One Month in each Place, from the Hours of Eight to Eleven in the Forenoon, and Two to Five in the Afternoon; then and there to receive the faid Quit-rents from the Persons concerned, and thereof to acquit and discharge them, on the Penalty of 5 l. One half to the King, the other to the Informer.

RATES and PRIZES.

If any Person shall refuse to sell Beef, Mutton, or Goat, by Weight, he shall forfeit 20 l.

Whoever shall destroy any Turtle-nests, or take away any of the Eggs thereof, he shall forfeit 40 s. or receive as many Lashes on the bare Back as any Justice shall order, not exceeding Thirty-nine, for every Offence; One

Third

Third of the Money to the King, One to the Church-wardens of the Parish, and the other Third-part to the Informer, to be recovered in any Court of Record, &c.

All Vintners and Retailers of Madera Wines or Brandy, that shall receive above 15 d. the Quart for Madera Wine, and 2 s. 6 d. the Quart for Brandy, and so proportionably, shall forfeit 40 s. for every Offence, to be levied by Warrant of any Justice of Peace where the Fault is committed, half to the Church-wardens, half to the Informer.

Lamb shall be brought into the Market with the Head on, and shewn before cut up, with the usual Signs of Distinction, that small Mutton may not be fold for Lamb.

No Person whatsoever shall sell Turtle, or any of the foresaid Meats by Retail, but in open Market, where they shall not resuse to sell the same by Weight, to any Person bringing ready Money, without imposing upon the

Buyer, &c.

The Place appointed by the Justices in Sessions, for the selling the Sorts of Meats in this Act mentioned, shall be deemed the publick Market-place, and the Market shall be adjudged open, upon ringing the Bell; which, on Saturdays, shall be at Three in the Asternoon; on all other Days, except Sunday, at Five in the Morning.

REGISTER.

A Deed made in due Form of Law, and within Three Months acknowledged, or proved by Oath before the Governor, or one of the Judges of this Island, and the same recorded in the Office of Inrolments, at St. Fago de la Vega, within the faid Three Months, shall be valid, and pass the Estate without Livery, Seifin, Attornment, or any other Ceremony in the Law; and no Deed not fo inrolled, shall pass any Estate for above Three Years.

Provided old Deeds or Conveyances heretofore made of Lands or Houses, and omitted to be recorded, upon being acknowledged, or proved and recorded in the Office of Inrolments, shall be effectual and of Force.

If a fecond Sale or Conveyance of the fame Land be made by the faid Vendor, and executed and recorded before the first, the last Vendee (if the Sale were for a valuable Confideration) shall enjoy the Land; and if any Vendee hath omitted to execute and inrol his Deed, within the due Time, but shall at any time after have done the same, no fecond Sale being made by the Vendor, the fame shall nevertheless be good to the Vendee, and a perpetual Bar to the Vendor.

All Deeds and Conveyances made out of this Island, and remitted hither, and proved before the Governor, or a Judge, as aforefaid; and all Deeds personally acknowledged before the Lord Mayor of London, and Court of Aldermen, and an Attestation thereof under the Seal of the City, and recorded here in the foresaid Office, within Six Months after the Arrival of the Ship that brought the fame, shall to all Intents and Purposes be good and valid. Provided, if any Person here, lawfully impowered, shall, in pursuance of that Power, make Sale of any Lands, &c. to any Person within this Island, and the Deeds duly proved and recorded, before any Conveyance from the Proprietor be here produced, proved or recorded; the Deed so made and passed here, shall stand good and effectual.

The Mortgagee, having received the Money lent, shall, at the Request of the Mortgager, enter Satisfaction on the Margin of the Mortgage recorded in the Office of Inrolments, which shall be a perpetual Discharge and Release of the same; and if such Mortgagee shall not within Three Months, after Request and Tender of his reasonable Charges, make Acknowledgment of Satisfaction, as aforesaid, he shall forseit and pay to the Party grieved 50 l. to be recovered in any Court of Re-

cord, &c.

The Judge before whom such Deeds or other Writings shall be made, may receive for every Deed of the Value of 20 l. or more, 10s. if under the Value, 5s. and no more; Penalty

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Penalty 20 l. Half to the King, Half to the

Informer.

The Clerk of the Involments may receive for involling and copying an ordinary Deed, or Patent, &c. 5s. if longer than a Patent, 8d. per Sheet, Twenty Lines to a Sheet, and Eight Words to a Line; for every short Writing 1s. for recording every Plot, 1s. 3d. for entering Satisfaction in the Margin of a Mortgage recorded 1s. 3d. and no more; Penalty 10l. to the Uses abovesaid.

All Patents already granted shall be inrolled within Six Months, and all hereafter granted shall be inrolled within Six Months

after the Sealing.

All Leases heretofore made, or to be made, of any Orphan's Estate, by his Guardian, during the Orphan's Minority, and no longer,

shall be good and valid in Law.

Provided, this Act shall not abridge the Power given by the Parent to any Guardian, nor to impower any Guardian to lease the Estate of an Heires longer, than till she

complete the Age of 14 Years.

The Clerk of the Involments, or whoever executes that Office, shall find Two Sureties, who with himself shall be bound to the King in the Penalty of 2000 l. for the true and faithful Execution of that Office, and for the keeping the same in the Town of St. Jago de la Vega; which Bond shall be recorded in the supreme Court of Judicature, and

and kept by the Chief Justice of the same. And whosoever, after Publication of this Act, shall officiate in the said Office, without giving such Security, as aforesaid, he shall forseit 500 l. to be recovered in any Court of Record; One Moiety to the King, the other to the Prosecutor.

SEAMEN, &c.

All Persons that have committed Pyracy, or Robbery by Sea, (and not Murder or Treason) that shall come hither and submit themselves, within Ten Days after their Arrival, and give Security for their suture good Behaviour, shall, by virtue of this Act, receive from the Commander in Chief, his Majesty's gracious Pardon under the Great Seal of this Island; for which Pardon, the Parties to whom it is extended shall pay the Sum of 40 s. and no more, as a Fee to such Officer as shall be appointed to receive the same.

The Attorney-General, or any other Officer whatsoever, who shall, directly or indirectly, exact any Sum of Money of any Person to whom such Act of Mercy is extended, shall forfeit the Sum of 100 l. half to his Majesty, and half to the Party injured, to be recovered in any Court of Record, &c. where no Essoign, non Pros. &c. shall be allowed.

This free Pardon shall be as good and effectual in Law to the Persons before-mentioned,

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tioned, as if the Offences had been specified, and pardoned, by proper and express Words and Names, and shall be as largely and beneficially understood as may be for the Advantage of the Parties intended to be pardoned.

All Persons that shall come and reside here, and claim the Benefit of this Act, and be employed in the Service of this Country in the Privateering Trade, or otherwise, shall be protected and excused from the Payment of their Debts contracted before their coming hither, or their going off from hence, for Five Years; during which Time, all Actions, Arrests, Process, Suits, Judgments, Executions, and all Prosecutions whatsoever against them shall be suspended, and respited during the said Time, and no longer; but after the Expiration of the said Five Years, the said Persons shall not plead the Statute of Limitations.

If anySuit or Action hereby suspended, shall be commenced or prosecuted, every Person so sued, may plead the General Issue, and give this Act and the Special Matter in Evidence; and if the Plaintiff shall be Non-suit, discontinue, or a Verdict pass against him, the said Plaintiff shall for ever forfeit and lose his original Debt so sued for, and besides, pay the Debt, double Costs and Charges.

Provided, no Person shall take any Benefit or Advantage by this Act, who shall not within Twenty Days after his Arrival, cause

his Name to be entered in the Office of Inrolments for this Island, and claim and demand the Benefit of the same; which Entry and Claim shall be as effectual, as if the said Person had been herein expressy named; and an attested Copy of the said Entry and Claim shall be pleaded in any Court, and of as much Authority and Force in the Law as this present Act, or a Special Pardon under the Broad Seal.

The Secretary or Clerk of the Involments shall not refuse to make such Entry and Claim as aforesaid, and give an attested Copy thereof, or take more than 15 d. for such Entry, and the Copy thereof, under the Penalty of 10 l. to him who shall sue for the same.

SERVANTS.

Every Master of Slaves, for the first Five working Slaves, shall be obliged to keep One white Man-servant, Overseer, or hired Man, for Three Months at least; and for Ten Slaves, TwoWhites; and for every Ten more, One; to be resident in the Plantation where the Negroes are employed, on Penalty of 5 l. for every Servant wanting of the Proportion aforesaid, to the Use of the Parish.

All Masters and Owners of Slaves, who shall not truly inform the Constable, when required, of all their hired Men or Servants,

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and working Slaves belonging to them, or under their Care, shall forfeit the Sum of 20 l. One Third-part to the King, One to the Church-wardens to the Use of the Parish, and the other to the Informer. And every Constable that shall neglect his Duty herein, by demanding an Account every Six Months, and returning the same to the next Quarter-Sessions of that Precinct, shall, for every such Default, forfeit 20 l. to the same Uses as aforesaid.

All Servants shall serve according to Contract, and where there is none, Servants under Eighteen Years of Age, at their Arrival in this Island, shall serve seven Years, and above Eighteen, shall serve four Years; and all convicted Felons, for the Time of their Banishment; and at the End of such Times, shall receive from their Master or Employers 40 s. and a Certificate of their Freedom; and he that resuses such Certificate, shall forfeit 40 s.

Whoever shall employ any free Person without a Certificate from the last Employer,

shall forfeit 10 %.

None shall presume to trade with any Servant or Slave, without the Master or Mistress's Consent, on Penalty of forfeiting treble the Value of the Thing traded for, and 10 l. to be recovered by the Master or Mistress in any Court. And all Contracts with Servants or Slaves, shall be void.

If any Servant, or hired Labourer, shall lay violent Hands upon his or her Employer, or Overseer; such Servant or Labourer shall, upon Conviction, serve without Wages Twelve Months, by Order of any Justice of Peace.

A hired Labourer or Servant that shall embezil, purloin, or waste his or her Employer's Money or Goods, shall serve, or make Satisfaction, at the Discretion of any Justice of Peace; if above the Value of 40 s. they shall serve Two Years without Wages, and surther, in case that Time will not satisfy. If they purloin, &c. from any other than their Owners, they shall serve the Party injured, as aforesaid, after their Time expired with their present Owners.

If a Freeman get a Woman-servant with Child, he shall, upon Proof, by the Woman's Oath, give good Security to save the Parish harmless, and also forfeit and pay to the Master or Mistress of such Servant, 20 l. and provide for the Maintenance of the said Servant and Child.

Child. And in case of Failure herein, he shall serve the Master or Mistress double the Time the Maid was to serve, at the Time of the Offence committed, or procure one to

ferve in his stead.

If one Servant get another with Child, the Man-servant shall serve the Master or Mistress of the Woman-servant, double the Time she had to serve at the Time of the Offence committed.

If a Man-servant marry without his Master or Mistress's Consent, he shall serve Two Years for the Offence; but, if a Freeman marry a Servant, he shall pay to the Master or Mistress 20 1. and his Wife shall be free.

All Suits between Servants and their Masters, relating to their Freedom, shall be heard and determined by Two Justices of

Peace, without any Appeal.

Servants absenting from their Service, without Leave or a Ticket, shall, for every Day's Absence, serve One Week, and so proportionably for a longer Time, the Whole not ex-

ceeding Three Years.

If any turn away a fick or infirm Servant, and fuch Servant shall die for Want of Relief, or become chargeable to any Parish, the Offender shall forfeit 20 1. to the Use of the Parish where such Death or Charges shall happen. But if any Servant, thro' wilful Misbehaviour, happen to have the French-pox, Yaws, or any other Difease, broken Bones, Sickness, Impediment or Imprisonment, he or she shall ferve double the Time thereby neglected; and also for all Charges occasioned by reason thereof, at 10 s. per Month, after their first Time expired. Also Masters and Mistresses, who receive unjust Molestation by Complaints or Suits at Law, shall have the like Remedy for their Expence, and Loss of Time.

No Servant shall be whipped naked, without Order from a Justice of Peace, on Penalty

of 5 1. to be recovered by the Party injured

in any Court of Record.

Whosoever shall not give to each white Servant, weekly, Four Pounds of good Flesh, or good Fish, with such convenient Plantation-provision as may be sufficient, shall forseit to the Party injured 10 s. for each Offence: And not yearly give to each Servant Three Shirts, Three Pair of Drawers, Three Pair of Shoes, Three Pair of Stockings, One Hat or Cap, and to Women proportionably, shall

forfeit to the Party 40 s.

No Master, &c. shall suffer to be buried any Christian Servant, till the Body shall be reviewed by some Justice of Peace, Constable, or Tything man, or Two such Neighbours as they shall appoint, Penalty 20 1. unless the Party died Ten Miles from any Justice, &c. and hath been viewed by Two of the next Neighbours, or Two of the same Family, or that the Justice, &c. hath not come within Six Hours after Notice. And whoever, upon Notice given, and Request made, shall not within Four Hours repair to view, or on the View, finding any fuspicious Signs of unlawful Death, shall not forthwith give Notice to the Coroner, or to the next Justice of Peace, he shall forfeit 10 /.

Whoever shall entertain a Servant, knowing him to be so, shall, for every Day and Night after the first, forfeit 5 l. but not knowing him to be a Servant, 20 s. so that

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the Whole exceed not treble the Value of the Servant's Time remaining to be secured. This Clause not to extend to Servants by Contract made in this Island, nor to such as carry with them a Certificate of their Freedom, attested under the Name of a Justice of Peace, tho' the same be false or forged; but such Forger, Falsisier, &c. shall be set in the Pillory, and lose his Ears, upon Conviction.

Whoever shall entertain a Servant at any time, if during the said time the Servant be drunk, trade, or game, the Entertainer shall forseit the Sum of 20s. half to the

Parish, half to the Informer.

If a Servant or hired Labourer hide or entertain another Man's Servant or Slave, he shall forfeit One Year's Service to the Master or Mistress of such Servant or Slave, or have Thirty-nine Lashes on the bare Back, at the Election of the Party injured.

No Person shall ride, load, or carry on his Employers Horses, Cattle, Carrs, or Carriages, (or suffer the same to be done) any Goods, other than his Masters or Mistresses, without their Consent; Penalty, Three

Months Service for every Default.

All Constables and Tything-men shall be diligent in searching for, and apprehending Runaways, on Penalty of 20 l. for every Neglect; and upon apprehending, the Servant shall be conveyed to the Master or Mistress, if known, on Penalty of 40 s. if

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not known, to the next common Gaol: The Bringer to be paid by the Master or Mistress, or Gaoler, 8 d. per Mile, so as the Whole exceed not 40 s. which the Gaoler shall pay under the Penalty of 40 s. and keep the Runaway till the Master, &c. refund to him the said Sum, and 2 s. 6 d. per Pound for disbursing the said Money, as also 6 d. for every Twenty-four Hours that the Runaway hath been in his Custody. But if he suffer such

Any one may take up any suspected Perfons, and carry them before any Justice to be examined.

Runaway to escape, before he be duly delivered to his Owner, he shall pay such Damages as shall be given by a Jury at Com-

The Captain or other commissioned Officer, shall yearly publish this Act, at the Head of their respective Company or Troop,

under Penalty of 5 l.

mon Law.

The Fines and Penalties of this Act, not otherwise declared, shall be One Moiety to the King, the other to the Informer, to be recovered, if not exceeding 40 s. before a Justice of Peace; if above, in any Court of Record, wherein no Essoign, &c.

No Person shall be sued, molested, or troubled, for any Fine or Forseiture upon this Act, unless within Two Years after the

Offence committed.

No Merchant, Master, or Importer of white Servants, shall presume to sell any such, before they have been Ten Days imported; Penalty 101. for every one so sold, half to the King, and half to the Informer.

The Masters of the Ship shall not disembark them during the said Ten Days, under the Penalty aforesaid. During which time, the Factor or Seller shall pay the Master for

their Diet.

The Master or Commander of any Ship or Vessel, that shall import the Number of Fisty white Male-servants, shall, upon due Proof thereof, be for that Voyage freed from paying any Port-charges for the said Ship or Vessel, wherein the said Servants were imported.

Debts contracted for Servants fold within this Island, may be recovered by Warrant from any Justice of Peace, as Debts not ex-

ceeding 40s.

No Cooper or Porter in this Island shall use any Negro-slaves in their Trades or Occupations, under Penalty of 20 l. for every such Offence, to be disposed as aforesaid, except Masters of Sugar-works, who may make Cask at their Plantations, or other convenient Place, as heretofore.

SHIPS and VESSELS.

The Master of every Ship or Vessel, before they trade, or land any Goods within P 2 this

this Island, (living Creatures excepted) shall give Security in the Secretary's Office, with One sufficient Freeholder or well-known Merchant, in the Sum of 1000 L not to carry off any Person without the Governor's Ticket, nor depart himself without the Governor's Leave, under the Penalty of 50 L. One Third-part to the King, One Third to the Governor, and One Third to the Informer.

Provided, Masters of Sloops, and Vessels trading to and from Ports, in this Island, or in Turtling, or Fishing, need to give such Security but once every Year; and Masters of any Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants of this Island, shall be obliged to give such

Security but once in Six Months.

The Secretary shall not deliver any Perfon a Ticket under the Governor's Hand to go off the Island, unless his Name hath been set up Twenty-one Days at the Secretary's Office, both at St. Jago de la Vega, and at Port-Royal; and the said Person shall also bring One or more of good Credit, to make Affidavit before a Justice of Peace, that he hath. known him or her to go by that Name for One Year, or so long as he or she hath lived in the Island; which Affidavit shall be filed in the Secretary's Office, or otherwise the Secretary shall take good Security for the Payment of fuch Persons Debts so departing; on Default of so doing, the Secretary shall be liable to satisfy the Creditors of such Person himself. Provided,

Provided, if the faid Bonds are not fued within Two Years after the Date, they are

hereby declared null and void.

The faid Bonds shall be taken in the King's Name, but shall be to the only Use and in Trust for the Persons concerned. And when put in Suit, the Judgment shall be in the same Nature as the Bonds were.

No Execution shall issue thereupon, before the Party aggrieved shall sue out a Scire facias, against the Defendant, to shew Cause why Execution should not issue; and if the Plaintiff in the Scire facias shall duly prove what Damages he hath sustained, and a Verdict thereupon, the Judge shall award Execution for so much as the Jury shall sind: And the former Judgment shall still remain cautionary for the Satisfaction of such others as shall legally prove themselves damnified, &c.

The Secretary or his Deputy shall keep his Office, both at Port-Royal and St. Jago de la Vega, and due Attendance shall be given at both Places, on all Days except Sundays, and such Holy-days as are usually observed in this Island, under the Penalty of 20 l. one Moiety to the King, the other to the Informer.

No Person employed in any Shallop, Boat, Wherry or other Vessel, shall demand for Transportation more than the Rates following; from Passage-Fort to Port-Royal, Salt-Ponds, or St. Andrews, in the Day, 2 s. 6 d. and in the Night, 3 s. or of every Person 6 d.

P 3

He that refuses to carry at that Rate, shall forfeit 20 s. to the Poor of the Parish. The Freight of the Goods between the faid Places

3 d. per Hundred, &c.

From the North-fide of the Island to any Part of the South-fide, One hundred Weight, 2 s. Barrel, 3 s. Hogsheads, 8 s. every Head of great Cattle alive, 10 s. a Sheep or Hog, 1s. every Passenger, 2 s.

From Port-Royal to Port-Morant, or Richardson's Bay, 9 d. per Hundred, 5 s. per Hogshead; for Wood, 13 s. per Ton; every

Passenger, 1s. 6 d.

From Port-Royal to St. David's, 6 d. per Hundred, 4 s. per Hogshead; every Passenger, 1 s. for Wood, 10 s. per Ton.

From Port-Royal to Point-Negril, and Point-Pedro, 18 d. per Hundred, 6 s. per

Hogshead.

From Alligator-Pond, Milk-River, and Carlisle Town, to Port-Royal, 1 s. per Hundred, &c. from Old-Harbour, 6 d. per Hundred.

He that demands greater Rates than fet down in this Act, shall forfeit 10 1. for every Default, one Half to the King, the other to the Informer.

No Negro, Indian, or Mulatto, shall be permitted to row in any Wherry, or Canoe, without One white Man. And all Boats, Wherries and Canoes, shall be chained, and their Sails and Oars secured every Night. The

Master

Master or Owner of any Wherry offending herein, shall forfeit to l. to be disposed as aforesaid.

Masters and Owners of Wherries, &c. shall have Six Months Time to furnish them-

selves with white Men.

Traders about the Island shall every time they arrive at Port-Royal, leave an Account of their Lading at the Naval Office, which shall be a sufficient Entry and Discharge, if their Loading be nothing but the Growth and Production of this Island.

Whosoever shall be indicted and convicted of the stealing or taking away any Shallop, Boat, Wherry, Canoe, or other Vessel, from any Part of this Island, or shall be consenting, aiding or assisting to the same, shall be

adjudged guilty of Felony.

Person, so to do, shall evidently appear by Proof or Confession, he shall be condemned by the Justices at the Sessions to pay the Sum of 10 l. to the King; which if not presently paid, the Justices shall expose the Ossender to publick Sale for the Payment thereof, not exceeding four Years: If the Party be a Servant, he shall be ordered to be whipped on the bare Back, not exceeding Thirty-nine Lashes, and after the Time expired with his Master, Mistress, or Employer, be sold for Four Year's.

No Seaman belonging to any Ship shall be trusted for any thing, and whoever trusts or retains any of them in his House, shall lose his Money, and be also proceeded against, and subject to the Penalties as for retaining other Mens Servants (excepting Matter of Trade): Vide Servants.

If any Victualler, or Retailer of Liquors, trust any Sea-faring Man, not generally residing in this Island, above the Value of 40 s. tho' he have a Bond for the same, he shall lose his Money.

If any Commander entice away any Seaman belonging to another Ship, before he be lawfully discharged, he shall forfeit 15 l. half to the King, and half to him that shall sue for the same.

All Warrants from Justices of Peace against any Person aboard any Ship within the Precincts of Port-Royal, shall be directed to the Provost-Marshal, or Deputy, or any lawful Constable of the Place, who are hereby impowered to execute the same, and for so do-

ing to receive 3 s.

Whatsoever Seaman shall desert the Ship he belongs to, and shall be found after the Departure of the Ship, and cannot produce sufficient Proof of his being discharged by the Commander thereof, he shall, by Order of any One Justice of Peace, receive Thirty-nine Lashes on the bare Back by the common Hangman, or other inferior Servant.

No

No Person whatsoever, without Leave of the Chief Officer upon Port-Royal, shall go on board any Ship at her entering into Harbour, till the Marshal or his Deputy hath first been on board with the Master, and brought him on Shore to the Chief Officer; Penalty 40 s. half to the Informer, half to the Poor of the Parish.

Nor shall any Person whatsoever treat about any Merchandize or Commodity to the Value of 10 s. nor any Quantity of Freight, till the Master hath been with the Governor, or such other Officer as he shall appoint, under the Penalty of 50 l. one Half to the King, the other to the Informer.

SLAVES.

No Master of any Ship or Vessel shall prefume to carry off this Island, any Slave or Slaves, without a Ticket under the Governor's Hand, wherein shall be inserted the Owner's Name, who shall make Oath before a Justice of Peace, that the said Slave or Slaves is his or hers, &c. upon Forseiture of double the Value of such Slaves so carried off without Ticket, one Half to the King, the other to him that shall sue for the same. For which Ticket the Secretary shall receive 2 s. 6 d. for his Fee, but shall insert as many in the same, as the Owner of the Slaves shall require.

None

None shall give Leave to any Negro-slave, except such as wait upon their Person, or wear Liveries, to go out of their Plantations, without a Ticket or white Servant, in which Ticket is to be expressed their Name, from whence, and whither going, on Penalty of 40 s. and paying for taking up as Runaways. And whosoever shall not apprehend a wandering Negro-slave in his Plantation, (except as before qualified) and not punish him by moderate Whipping, shall forfeit 40 s.

If a Negro-slave strikes any Person, except in Desence of his Owner's Person or Goods, he shall for the first Offence be severely whipped by Order of a Justice of Peace; for the second, by the like Order, be severely whipped, his or her Nose slit, and Face burnt in some Place; and for the third Offence, left to Two Justices, and Three Freeholders, to inslict Death, or what other

Punishment they think fit.

All Men-slaves shall have Drawers and Caps, and Women, Petticoats, once every Year.

No Slave shall be free by becoming a Christian, but shall, as to the Payment of Debts, be accounted Chattels. And where other Chattels are not sufficient, so many Slaves as necessary, shall be sold for Payment of Debts. In all other Cases, Negroes and Slaves shall be taken as Freehold, and descend accordingly.

No

No Person whatsoever (except the Provost-Marshal, at the Gaol of St. Jago de la Vega) shall keep any runaway Slave above Ten Days. Nor shall the Provost-Marshal, or any other, employ any fuch, or fuffer any to want convenient Food and Water; Penalty 40 1. If any fuch die in their Custody for want of Food or Water, or convenient Lodging, the Person in whose Custody such Negro was, shall pay the Owner 50 1. to be recovered by Action of Debt, in any Court of Record in this Island.

Whoever shall take up a runaway Slave, shall bring him to his proper Owner, if known, and receive for their Pains 1 s. per Mile for the first Five, and 8 d. per Mile for all over, the Whole not exceeding 40 s. If the Owner is not known, he shall be delivered to the Marshal, upon Pain of forfeiting 20 1. for every Day he shall keep such Slave beyond the said

Ten Days.

The faid Taker-up shall set up an Account of his own Name, and Place of Abode, with a particular Description of the Slave in his Custody, at St. Jago de la Vega, and Port-

Royal, on Penalty of 200 l.

The Marshal shall enter the said Account in a Book, and take a Receipt from the Perfon to whom he delivers any Runaway.

In case the Marshal shall refuse to make Payment for the taking up of a runaway Slave, any Constable, by a Justice of Peace's Warrant,

may

may levy the Value thereof by Distress and

Sale of the faid Marshal's Goods.

The said Marshal may detain and keep in Custody all such Runaways brought unto him, till the Owner pay him the full Sum which he paid for them, 2 s. 6 d. per Pound for his laying out the Money, and 6 d. for every Twenty-four Hours such Slave hath been in his Custody. If the said Marshal suffer any such Slave to escape, to be employed, and to be out of his Custody, before he shall be delivered to the Owner, he shall forfeit to the Owner 50 l.

Houses to be diligently searched over every Fortnight, for Clubs, wooden Swords, and mischieveus Weapons, and finding any, cause the same to be burnt: Also, upon Request, search for stolen Goods, and Flesh not honestly come by. Things found and suspected to be stolen, shall be seized, and a Description in Writing sent to the Clerk of the Parish, or next Court, who shall give Notice thereof; and the Owner, making due Proof, that the Goods belong to him, shall have them, paying the Clerk 1s. for his Publication. The Party that resuses to restore such Goods to the Owners, shall forseit 20 l.

If any Slave shall take up a Runaway, he or she shall have the whole Benefit thereof; and if any deprive the Slave of the said Benefit,

he shall forfeit treble the Value.

No Person whatsoever shall attempt to steal or carry off any Slave, on Penalty of 60 1. and he that actually doth it, shall be guilty of Felony, without Benefit of Clergy.

Any Person may ruinate and destroy any Plantation deserted for the Space of 2 Months, lest it become a Receptacle for Fugitives.

Upon Complaint of any heinous and grievous Crime committed by any Slave, as Burglary, Robbery, burning of Houses, killing or stealing of Cattle, &c. the Justices shall issue out their Warrants, and, upon probable Proof, the Offender shall be committed or bailed as the Case shall require. And Two Justices shall issue their Summons to Three fufficient Freeholders appointing a Day and Place, when and where the faid Justices, and the Three Freeholders, shall hear the Matter; and if, upon Evidence, the Party appears guilty, they shall give Sentence of Death, or fuch other Punishment as the Crime by Law deserveth, and by their Warrant cause immediate Execution to be done. But if the Crime shall not deserve Death, they shall adjudge the Criminal to the Party injured, and Heirs for ever, (after corporal Punishment) unless the Owner of the Slave shall pay to the Party injured, such Sum of Money as the said Justices and Freeholders shall appoint. And if any Justice or Freeholder shall neglect his Duty herein, he shall forfeit 20 1.

If any of the said Crimes be committed by more than One Negro, that shall deserveDeath, One of the Criminals shall only suffer Death, as exemplary, the rest returned to the Owners, which Owners shall bear proportionably the Loss of the Negro put to Death, and pay proportionably the Damage done by the said Criminal to the Party injured; and if any of them shall refuse to pay his Part allotted, the Justice and Freeholders aforesaid shall issue their Warrant to raise the same by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the Person so resulting.

Every Commission-Officer shall, upon Notice given him of the Haunt or Hiding-place of any runaway Negroes, raise a Party of Men, not exceeding 20, and with them pursue, apprehend, and take the said Runaways alive or dead. Whatsoever Commission-Officer shall neglect his Duty herein, shall forfeit 20 l.

If any Slave commit Murder, rise in Rebellion, or make any Preparation of Arms, Powder, &c. or conspire for that End, he shall be tried by Two Justices, and Three Freeholders, with Judgment and Execution in like manner, as before expressed. And if any Person shall make away or conceal any Negroes suspected of the aforesaid Crimes, and not, upon Demand, bring forth the suspected Party, he shall forseit 100 l.

The Marshal shall give an Account at every Sessions, of what Negroes he hath in Prison at St. Jago de la Vega, and Port-Royal, with their

their Marks and Seals, and the Time they have been in their Gaol, in Writing, on Pe-

nalty of 100 l. for every Default.

All Owners of Plantations shall have at all times One Acre of Ground well planted with Provisions for every Five Negroes, and so proportionably, under the Penalty of 40 s. for every Acre wanting.

No Master or Owner of Slaves shall let out any Slave for Hire, to work upon Port-Royal as a common Porter; Penalty 20 1. for every

Offence.

If any Slave, by Punishment from his Owner for running away, or other Offence, suffer in Life or Limb, none shall be liable to the Law for the same; but whoever shall kill a Slave out of Wilfulness, Wantonness, or Bloodymindedness, shall suffer Three Months Imprifonment, and pay 50 l. to the Owner of the Slave. If the Party so offending be a Servant, he or she shall have on the bare Back Thirtynine Lashes: and also (after the Expiration of the Term with his or her Master or Mistress) shall serve the Owner of the deceased Slave, the full Term of Four Years.

If any Person kill a Slave, stealing or running away, or found by Night out of his Owner's Ground, Road, or common Path, such Person shall not be subject to any Da-

mage or Action for the same.

A Negro taken stealing Wood in Boats or Canoes, and thereof convicted, shall be condemned

demned to serve the Owner of the Land where the Offence was committed, Six Months, without any Satisfaction to the Owner of the Slave.

All Masters of Boats, Wherries, and Canoes plying at Port-Royal, shall give their own Bonds of 50 l. not to carry any Negroes without a Ticket (except as before); which Bonds shall be taken in the King's Name, and Proceedings thereupon, in such manner as is appointed in An Act requiring Masters of Ships to give Security, &c. (vid. Ships and Vessels). The Secretary, in whose Office the Bonds shall be recorded, may take One Shilling for each Bond, and no more.

If such Masters of Boats, &c. shall not within 40 Days give such Bonds to the Secretary, they shall forseit 40 s. for every Week after.

This Act shall be read in all Parish-Churches, by the Clerk, yearly, the first Sunday after Christmas Day, and first after Midsummer; and where there are no Churches, by the Clerk of the Peace of the Precinct, every other Sessions; Penalty 5 1. for each Default.

Pénalties mentioned in this Act, and not otherwise declared, shall be recovered before a Justice of Peace, if not exceeding 40 s. if more by Action of Debt, one Moiety to the King, the other to the Informer.

SURVEYORS.

None shall act as a Surveyor-General, before he hath given Security in the Sum of 4000 l. for

Letter 7. of JAMAICA. 225
for the faithful Performance of his Office
and Trust; which Bonds shall be kept and
recorded in the Secretary's Office, and
Damages recovered thereon, in such manner as directed in the Ast requiring Masters
of Ships to give Security, &c. (vid. Ships and
Vessels).

Provided, any Person may survey and resurvey any Land, where the King is not Party; but where he is, only the Surveyor-General, or such as are authorized by the Governor,

shall furvey.

The Surveyor-General, or other Person lawfully authorized, as aforesaid, shall execute every Order or Warrant directed to him for surveying within a reasonable time; viz. within the Parishes of St. Katharine's, Port-Royal, or St. Andrew's, within One Month; and in the most remote Parishes in the Island, within Six Months; upon Penalty of 100 l. for every such Default, one Moiety to the King, the other to the Party aggrieved, or him that shall sue for the same.

If any cause the Surveyor to take a Journey, and when he comes to the Place assigned, the Party shall not be there ready to shew him the Land to be surveyed, he shall pay the Surveyor 10 s. per Diem, for every Day he shall so lose.

The Surveyor-General, or his Deputy, shall keep his Office at St. Jago de la Vega, under

and shall there attend from Eight to Eleven in the Forenoon, and from Two to Five in the Afternoon, except Sundays and Holy-days, under the Penalty of 40 s.

A Power left in the King, and his Officers, to re-examine the Surveyors for what concerns

his Majesty.

No Surveyor shall deliver any Plat, before he hath himself actually surveyed and measured the said Land on every Side, where accessible, and seen the Lines made, and Corner Trees marked, and inserted a Scale of the same, under the Penalty of 50 l. for every Default.

The Surveyor, before he run upon any Land already taken up, shall give Notice thereof to the Owner or Possessor of the same, if he know them; if not, to the Two next Neigh-

bours, under Penalty of 20 l.

No Surveyor shall survey or lay out any Land, to pass the Broad-Seal of this Island, for his own Use, but shall employ some other Surveyor to do it, under Penalty of 50 l.

All Surveyors who have given Plats, whereby any Parcel of Land hath passed the Broad-Seal of this Island, without actual surveying on all Sides, where seasible, shall, on Request to them made at any time, complete a former Survey, according to the Plat by them given, running Lines, and marking Trees, according to Custom; but no Surveyor is obliged to resurvey,

furvey, or cut Lines in Lands that have been patented more than Four Years: Surveyors that upon Request shall deny, refuse or delay to rectify Errors in such manner, as aforesaid, shall forfeit for every Three Months Delay, 20 l. half to the King, half to the Informer.

Every Surveyor, when an Order for Survey is offered him, shall immediately take a Memorandum of the Place, Time and Particulars; and writing the same on the Back of the Order, shall survey the Land accordingly; and if he hath received an Order already, which he believes is for the same Land, he shall then declare the same, and shew the Order, if required, under the Penalty of 40 l. for every Default.

Every Surveyor shall return Two Plats upon every Survey to the Patent-Office, one to remain there, the other to be affixed to the Grant.

The Clerk of the Patents shall accordingly fix one of the Plats to the Grant, and keep the other in the Office without Imbezilment, and the Secretary shall record the Plat next to the respective Grant or Patent; the Clerk of the Patents may receive for writing an Original Patent 10s. and no more; and the said Clerk and Secretary, offending against any Clause of this Act, he or they so offending, shall forfeit 20 l. for every Offence.

Every

Every Surveyor, Clerk of the Patents, or other Person having in his Possession any original Plat, shall on Request give a true Copy of the same for 2 s. 6 d. Penalty 40 s. one Half to the Church-wardens for the Use of the Poor, the other to the Party complaining.

Every Surveyor may receive 4 d. per Acre for surveying any Quantity of Land, and no

more.

Every Surveyor, before he acts, shall give Bond with sufficient Surety, in the Sum of 300 l. for the true and just Performance of his Office, under the Penalty of 50 l. the Bond to be kept in the Secretary's Office, to be put in Suit (if Occasion be) in the same manner as is declared, Tit. Ships and Vessels.

If the Surveyor-General keep his Office, and perform his Duties, as herein required, he may employ Deputies as formerly; but his Bond of 4000 l. shall remain cautionary for Security, both as to himself and his Deputies.

If any Person having an original Plat in his Custody, shall not return the same into the Patent-Office, he shall upon due Conviction

forfeit 100 l.

All Penalties in this Act mentioned, and not otherwise directed, shall be one Half to the King, the other to him that shall sue for the same in any Court of Record, wherein no Essoign, &c.

TAXES.

The Surveyors of the High-ways in the several Parishes shall, upon any sudden and extraordinary Occasion of repairing the same, represent it to the Justices of the respective Precinct, who shall thereupon lay a Taxupon the Inhabitants of the said Precinct, of such Money, Labour, or other Things, as shall seem necessary for the immediate Repair of

the faid Ways.

For the repairing of Forts, and defraying many necessary Charges in and about the Government of this Island, an Impost is granted to the King, of Liquors and Goods imported; viz. upon all Spanish and Madera Wines, 41. per Tun; Wines of the Western Islands, or Mixture therewith, 10 l. per Tun; French and Rhenish Wines, 3 l. per Tun; Brandy 1 s. per Gallon; English Spirits, 3 d. per Gallon; Beer and Cyder, 8 s. per Tun; Mum and Metheglin, 40 s. per Tun; white Sugar, 10 s. perHundred; Muscovadoes and Panial Sugar, 6 s. per Hundred; Indico, 6 s. per Pound; Tobacco, 2 d. per Pound; Ginger, 10 s. per Hundred; Rum, 1 s. 6 d. per Gallon; Cocoa, 10 s. per Hundred, and so proportionably.

Importers shall, within Twenty Days after Landing, make up Accounts, and give Bonds of double the Value, and thereupon shall be

allowed 10 per Cent. for Leakage, and shall pay One Third-part at the End of Two Months from the making up such Accounts, One Third-part at the End of the fourth Month, and the Remainder at the End of the fixth Month.

Every Hogshead of Wine, or other Liquor, that shall not have Seven Inches or above left therein, and a Butt or Pipe Nine Inches, shall be accounted for Outs, and the Importer pay no Custom for it.

Liquors that prove bad, &c. shall be surveyed (if Controversy happen) by Warrant from the Naval Office, which shall be re-

turned upon Oath.

Such Importers as make not up their Accounts within Ten Days, (being thereunto required) shall lose the Benefit of the 10 per Cent. for Leakage, and the Time given for Payment; and if the Receiver be put to sue for the same, the Defendants shall pay treble

Damages.

If the Master, when he makes his Entry in the Naval Office, owns to have imported Madera Wines, he or the Boat-swain shall make Oath, That the Wines were taken in at the Island of Madera, and that he doth not know but the said Wines are of the Growth of that Island, without any Mixtures, &c. If he refuse to make such Oath, the Wines shall be taken to be of the Growth of the Western Islands, and shall pay accordingly.

Liquors

Liquors and Goods exported within a Year after Importation, shall be allowed a Drawback of half what was paid for Custom, which the Collector or Receiver shall repay or discount, under the Penalty of double the Sum

to the Party grieved.

All Ships and Vessels coming from the Northward of the Tropick of Cancer, shall pay for every Tun such Vessel contains, One Pound of Gun-powder, every time they arrive; but such as Trade Southward of the said Tropick, shall pay the like once a Year, and no more; the Collector shall receive the said Duty in Specie, and not Money, or other Things, in lieu thereof, Penalty 20 l. Now they pay either 2s. 6d. or the Pound of Gun-powder, as they please.

Goods landed without the Presence of the Collector, or other appointed by him, before Entry made, Payment of the Duty, or Bond given, after Sun-set, and before Sun-rising, with Intent to defraud the King of his Customs, shall be forfeited, Two Thirds to the King, and One Third to the Informer or Seizer, to be recovered in any Court of Record; and all Persons shall be aiding and assisting to the Receiver, Informer, Discoverer, and Seizer

herein.

The Receiver and his Agents may, by Warrant from any Justice of Peace, and with a Constable, search any House, Cellar, Warehouse and Shop, for concealed Goods and Q 4 Liquors,

Liquors, which being found, shall be forfeited and condemned, provided the Search be within Three Days after Information.

The Collector or his Deputy shall attend at his Office from Nine to Eleven in the Morning, and from Two to Four in the Afternoon,

upon Penalty of 20 l.

Such as have Licence to fell and retail any strong Liquors, shall pay for the said Licence, and every Year renewing, 5 l. to the King; and such as presume to sell without Licence, shall forfeit for every such Offence the Sum of 10 l.

Such as come to settle in this Island, and bring Rum, Sugar, Tobacco, &c. for their own Conveniency, shall declare the same upon Oath at the Time of Importation, or make the same appear within Three Months after Arrival, by some visible Effect; in such Case the said Goods shall not be chargeable with any Duty or Customs, except only what he shall sell and dispose of, which must pay as in other Cases.

All the King's Quit-rents, and all the Revenue hereby granted, shall be applied and appropriated to the Support of the Government of this Island, and the contingent Charges thereof, and to no other Use.

The Sum of 1250 l. per Annum arising, as aforesaid, shall be annually paid and appropriated to the repairing, building and rebuilding his Majesty's Forts and Fortifications in this Island.

The Collector or Receiver-General shall charge the 1250 l. so appropriated, as a fore-said, in a distinct Book of Accounts, which Book shall be free and open at all Office-hours for all Persons to view without Fee; and the said Receiver-General shall, when required by the Governor, Council, or Assembly, give in upon Oath a true Account of the Disbursements out of the said 1250 l. per Annum.

The faid General-Receiver shall, with sufficient Security, enter into Bond of 5000 1. Penalty, (to be kept and recovered in the Secretary's Office) with Condition truly to account for all such Money as shall come to his Hands. and well and truly pay the Sum of 12501. yearly, by the Warrant of the Governor and Quorum of the Council, towards the repairing and building Fortifications, &c. And in case the faid Collector or Receiver General shall act in the faid Office longer than Twenty Days, without giving such Security as aforesaid, or shall misapply any Part of the said 1250 1. he shall, for every such Offence, forfeit the Sum of 2500 l. one Half to the King, the other to him that shall sue for the same in any Court of Record, wherein no Effoign, Injunction, Wager of Law, or Non Prof. shall be allowed.

The Collector, Receiver or Deputy, shall not pay any Part of the said 1250 l. per Annum, or any Sum arising from the Quit-rents, or by virtue of this Act, without a Warrant un-

der the Governor's Hand and Seal; and if the faid Collectors, &c. shall pay any Monies contrary to the true Intent and Meaning hereof, or if any other Person or Persons shall misapply any of the Monies so appropriated, as aforesaid, the Offender shall forfeit and pay treble the Sum so mispaid.

All Forfeitures and Penalties in this Act mentioned, and not otherwise disposed of, shall be one Half to the King for the Support of the Government, and contingent Charges, the other Half to the Informer, to be recovered

in any Court of Record, &c.

For and towards the buying or hiring, victualling, and manning Two good Sloops of War, each carrying Fifty Men, to be employed for Six Months, towards guarding the Sea-coasts, and cruising, &c. and also for and towards the raising of Two Parties, each of Ten Soldiers and Two Officers, for Six Months, towards the reducing rebellious Negroes.

Enacted, That the Sum of 4303 l. 3s. 9 d. be affessed, taxed, and laid by the Justices and Vestries, or where no Vestries, by the Justices of that Parish or Precinct, on all and every Person, within their several and respective Precincts, by an equal and just Tax, according to the several Rates and Proportions following.

For every Negro, Indian, or Mulatto Slave, to be paid for by the Owner or Possessor, 1s, 6d. For every Horse, Mare, Colt, Mule, Ass, and Neat Cattle, 7d. \frac{1}{2}. For Sheep, Lambs, Goats, Kids, 2s. 6d. per Score. All

All Overseers and hired Servants shall be affessed 6 d. per Pound upon the Wages they receive per Ann. All Handicrass and Tradesmen shall be rated according to the Direction of the Justices and Vestry, in the several Pa-

rishes where they reside.

In the Parish of Port-Royal, there shall be affessed and levied 1 s. in the Pound on all Rents, to be paid by the Tenants, and allowed by their Landlords, and upon the several Inhabitants for their Trades, Occupations and Callings. And also on all Persons residing at the Town of St. Jago de la Vega, 1 s. in the Pound to be paid by the Tenants, and allowed by Landlords, &c. And the like for those residing at King ston, to be rated by the Justices of the Parish of St. Andrew's.

The Jews residing in this Island shall pay, over and above the Tax, as afore assessed, the

Sum of 750 l.

If any of the Jews appointed to affels and collect the foresaid Sum, shall neglect his or their Duty therein, the Governor, by Warrant under his Hand and Seal, directed to the Provost-Marshal, may cause to be levied on the Person so offending 100 l. by Distress and Sale of his Slaves, Goods and Chattels; and in case no Distress can be found, then to take into Custody the Body of the Person so offending, till Payment.

The Justices shall deliver to the Constables within their respective Parishes and Precincts,

a Roll

a Roll of such Assessments as aforesaid, so that the Collection be made within Two Months after the 10th of June, with a Warrant under the same, impowering the said Constable to levy the same, and pay it into the Hands of the Church-wardens, or where no Church-wardens, into the Hands of the Justices of that Parish, deducting 4 d. per Pound for collecting, except in the Parishes of Port-Royal and King ston, where it shall be done gratis. Which said Church-wardens shall pay the same to the Receiver.

The Justices, or any Two of them, shall impower the Constables, upon Refusal or Delay of Payment, to distrain upon the personal Estate of the Person resusing or delaying, and forthwith sell the same at publick Outcry, retaining to themselves 1 s. in the Pound for such Distress, and return the Overplus, if any be.

The Justices and Vestries, in their several Precincts, shall with all possible Speed, after the passing this Act, proceed to the Discharge of their Duties. If any Justice, Vestry-man, Constable or Church-warden, shall wilfully fail in his Duty, in such case, the Justice shall forfeit 50 l. any of the other 20 l. for every such Offence.

All Owners of Slaves, Horses, or any Sorts of Cattle, Tradesmen, and hired Men what-soever, shall give a just and true Account upon Oath, to the best of their Knowledge, at such times as the Justices shall direct, of all Slaves,

Horses,

Horses, or other Cattle, Rents, Trades, and Callings, as are belonging to them (Jews

only excepted).

If any Person whatsoever shall refuse, either by himself, Overseer, or Penn-keeper, to discover upon Oath, the true Number of their Slaves, Horses, &c. it shall be lawful for the Justices and Vestry to tax such Person according to their Discretion.

Whosoever shall advance and lend any Sum of Money upon the Security of this Act, shall receive for the Loan of the same after the Rate of 12 l. 10 s. per Cent. per Annum, for the time

he shall be in Disburse of the said Sum.

Which Sum or Sums so lent on the Credit of this Act, shall by the Receiver, on the first Payment of Money that shall be paid into the Receiver's Hands by virtue of this Act, be forthwith repaid to the Person or Persons so lending the same, their Executors or Administrators, with the Interest of the same. And all other Sum or Sums that shall be laid out or paid by the Receiver, about the Two Sloops, and Two Parties for reducing rebellious Negroes, as before mentioned, shall be paid by the Receivers, without Fee or Charge.

The Parties above-mentioned to be raised for subduing the rebellious Negroes, in case of Misdemeanours, shall be subject to the Punishments prescribed in the Articles of War, as when Martial Law is in Force. And the Captain of each Party shall receive for his Pay 41.

per Month, each Serjeant 50 s. per Month, and each Soldier 40 s. per Month, to be paid by the Receiver or Receivers, without Fee.

Those that go out in the Parties to reduce the Negroes, shall receive from the Treasurers, for every rebellious Negro that shall be killed, bringing in his Head to any Justice, 40 l. for every Negro taken and brought in alive, and not maimed, 10 l. to be paid by the Owner; who is hereby obliged, under the Penalty of 50 l. to transport such Slave so taken; and in case the Owner cannot be found, then the Treasurer shall pay the rol. receive the Slave, sell and transport him; and retain the Produce to be employed in the said Service.

All Negroes that have been absent from their Owner or Plantations Six Months, shall be

accounted as in actual Rebellion.

The Receiver or Receivers, Treasurer or Treasurers, shall be allowed all his or their reasonable Charges, Commission, or Pretences

to Commission, excepted.

There shall be raised and paid the following Imposts upon Madera Wines, over and above what is already payable, for Three Months, and no longer; viz. the Sum of 40 s.

for every Tun.

And for every Slave exported by way of Merchandize, for the Term aforesaid, the Owner shall pay 20 s. per Head. All which Negroes shall be entered in the Receiver-General's Office, and Bond given by the Owner to

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pay the Money within One Month after the

Entry.

Whoever shall export any Slave or Slaves, and not make Entry, give Bond and pay as before directed, shall forfeit for every Slave so exported 50 l. one Half to his Majesty, the other to the Informer.

Every Merchant, or other Importer of Madera Wines, during the said Term of Three Months, shall make Entry, make up Accounts, and give Bonds, in the same Method, and under the same Penalty, as directed by an Act for raising a publick Revenue for Support of the Government, &c.

The Money arising by virtue of this Act shall be to the Use of his Majesty for the Support of the Government of this Island, and

the contingent Charges thereof.

There shall be raised and paid unto his Majesty, for the Support of the Government, an additional Duty and Impost upon the following Liquors, over and above what is

already payable; viz.

For every Tun of Spanish and Madera Wine imported, 40 s. all Wines of the Growth of the Western Islands, 5 l. per Tun; all French Wines or Rhenish Wines, 3 s. per Tun; Beer or Cyder, 4 s. per Tun; Mum or Metheglin, 20 s. per Tun; Brandy, 6 d. per Gallon; English Spirits, 3 d. per Gallon; and so proportionably. All which said Liquors shall be duly entered, under the Penalties mentioned in the AEt for raising a publick Revenue, &c. For

For Slaves exported, the Owner shall pay 20 s. each, excepting Slaves ordered to be

transported for Misdemeanours.

Upon due Proof in the supreme Court of Judicature, an Action of Debt shall lie for his Majesty, against any Person, his Executors. &c. that stand indebted for Customs, whether Bond be given or not.

After the Deduction and Payment of the faid Sum of 1774 i. 16 s. the rest of the Monies shall remain as a Fund to encourage such Perfons as are willing to transport themselves

hither, and be applied to no other Use.

All Tradesmen and others, not able to pay their Passages, except Jews, Cripples, and Children under Eleven Years of Age, who are willing to transport themselves to this Island, shall, upon their repairing to any Master of any Ship, be received on board, and, after their Arrival here, be free from all manner of Servitude, and have Liberty to employ themfelves as they think fit, in any honest Trade, Service, or Calling; and the Captain or Master shall receive of the Treasurers appointed by this Act, for every Person coming from England or Scotland, 7 l. 10 s. and for every Person from Ireland, 6 l. for their Passage; and for every Person so brought from Europe, the said Master shall have for his Encouragement, and to his own Use, the further Sum of 20s. per Head.

All Masters of Vessels, that shall import any fuch Persons as aforesaid, from New-England, Carolina,

AIRVIE

Carolina, or any other Parts of America, shall receive the Sum of 3 l. 10 s. and for every Person brought from Providence, and the Windward Islands, 40 s. And also, for every Person from any of the foresaid Places, the further Sum of 10 s. per Head for his own Use and Benefit.

All Masters who shall import as aforesaid, shall, within Forty-eight Hours after Arrival, deliver upon Oath to the Secretary a List of the Names, Age and Trade, &c. of the Persons imported, which he is to enter in a Book, and transmit the List to the Treasurer, who is thereupon to pay the respective Sums to the Masters, and 2 s. 6 d. to the Secretary.

All Merchants and others importing any Wines and Liquors before-mentioned, shall enter the same in the Office of the Receivers-General, after the manner prescribed in the

Att for raifing a Publick Revenue, &c.

All which Duties, and the Impost on Negroes, shall be kept in a Book apart, the Bonds taken in his Majesty's Name; the Money arising thereon shall be paid into the Hands of the Receiver-General, and by him paid over to the Treasurer within Twenty Days after. For which Bonds and Entries, receiving and paying, the said Receiver-General (or Deputy) shall retain to himself Two and a half per Cent. and no more.

For Goods of which the Customs are under 5 l. Value, no Bond shall be taken, nor Credit

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given, but the Customs of the same shall be immediately paid to the Receiver-General.

All Negroes to be exported shall be entered, and Bond given by the Owner for the Payment of the Money within One Month after the

Entry, under the Penalty of gol. and Parish

The Commissioners may appoint one of more of their own Number to receive and pay the Money arising by this Act, of all which the Treasurer shall keep an exact and distinct Account, and declare the same when thereunto required. If the Treasurer shall divert or misapply any of the said Monies, he shall forseit to his Majesty double the Sum so diverted or misapplied.

The Treasurer for the Time being shall be allowed Two and a half per Cent. for his Charges in and about the Discharge of his Trust.

Such Monies as remain in the Treasurer's Hands, (if any) after the Expiration of this Act, shall notwith standing be employed to the

Uses in this Act appointed.

The Secretary shall, upon Demand, give a Copy of this Act to any Person requiring it, for which he shall receive 10 s. and in case of Delay or Resusal, he shall forfeit 40 s.

If the Receiver-General refuse to do and perform all and every thing as by this Act injoined him, he shall forfeit for every such Offence the Sum of 500 l. And all other Perfons offending contrary to the true Meaning of this Act, shall forfeit (if no Penalty be already laid)

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laid) the Sum of 100 l. one Moiety of which Forfeitures shall be to his Majesty, the other to the Informer, to be recovered in any Court of Record, where no Essoign, &c.

The Sum of 450 l. shall be levied and paid within Three Months after the 10th Day of August, and so every Year, for the soliciting the Affairs of this Island in England, viz.

From the Parish and Town of Port-Royal, 491. 10 s. 10 d. St. Andrew's, 52 l. 17 s. 5 d. St. Katharine's, 56 l. 16 s. 3 d. St. Dorothy, 25 l. 3 s. 1 d. Vere, 47 l. 1 s. 8 d. Clarendon, 42 l. 1 s. 8 d. St. Elizabeth, 51 l. 6 s. 8 d. St. Thomas to Windward, 27 l. 10 s. St. David's, 16 l. 11 s. \$t. Thomas in the Vale, 21 l. 9 s. St. John's, 15 l. 8 s. 3 d. St. George's, 3 l. 13 s. 1 d. St. Mary's, 11 l. 5 s. 7 d St. Anne's, 7 l. 13 s. 6 d. \$t. James's, 2 l. 16 s. 8 d. King ston, 19 l. 5 s.

The Money so raised and paid as aforesaid, shall, by the Receiver, be yearly remitted on the Country's Risque, in such manner as they shall think sit, to solicit in England the publick Affairs of this Island, as Occasion shall require.

The Commissioners shall at no time order any thing, contrary to any of the Instructions drawn up by the Council and Assembly, for Direction to the Solicitors in England, but fully observe and be directed thereby: Notwithstanding they may, upon any sudden or emergent Occasions, give the said Solicitors such further Instructions as they shall think sit.

The faid Commissioners, or major Part of them, may from time to time turn out, or alter any of the Solicitors in this Act mention-

ed, if it be thought fit.

The Receiver or Receivers of the Monies arising by this Act, shall keep an exact and distinct Account of all Payments and Remittances, and render a true Account thereof, when required, to the rest of the Commissioners, or to the Assembly, when sitting. And if any Receiver shall divert or misapply any of the said Money, he shall forfeit to his Majesty double the Sum.

The faid Receiver or Receivers shall be allowed all his or their Expences. But in case he or they neglect or refuse to remit the said Sums yearly, during the Continuance of this Act, to the Solicitors in England, shall for-

feit the Sum of 500 l.

All Owners of Slaves, Horses, or any kind of Cattle, shall by themselves, Guardians, Overseers, Trustees, or Penn-keepers, give a true and just Account upon Oath, at such time as the Justices shall direct, of the Numbers of his Slaves, Horses, and all other Cattle, and of his Rents. And if any refuse by themselves, or Overseers, &c. to give such Account upon Oath, the Justices and Vestry may tax such Person according to their Discretion.

The Parties raised for subduing rebellious Negroes, in case of Misdemeanour, or Neglect of Duty, shall be subject to the Punishment Letter 7. of JAMAICA. 245

prescribed in the Articles of War, as when Martial Law is in Force. And the Captains of each Party shall receive for Pay 4 l. per Month, each Serjeant 50 s. and each Soldier 40 s. per Month.

Of the Monies arising by virtue of the foresaid Acts, 1000 l. shall be employed for paying the Passages of such Persons as shall transport themselves hither, according to the Directions of an Act passed to that Purpose.

TREASON.

Whosoever shall at any time hereafter falfify, forge, or counterfeit his Majesty's Broad-Seal of this Island, every such Offence shall be deemed and judged High-Treason. And the Offender or Offenders therein, their Counsellors, Aiders, Abettors, or Concealers, being lawfully convicted by the Oaths of Two credible Witnesses upon Trial, or otherwise, shall be adjudged Traitors, and suffer such Pains, Penalties and Forfeitures, as in like Cases is ordained by the Laws of England.

VAGABONDS and POOR.

Any Three Justices, and the Vestry of each Parish, or the major Part of them, may lay a Tax (if it seem convenient) for the building one or more Houses of Correction within their several Parishes, and for providing Stocks for

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the same; and for governing the same, make such Order as the said Justices and Vestry shall think sit; which shall be of Force, and put in Execution.

All Rogues, Vagabonds, and other idle Persons, that shall be found wandering or otherwise mis-ordering themselves, shall be apprehended by the Constables, and carried before some Justice of Peace of that Precinct; and if the Person apprehended appear to be sit and able to work, and refuse so to do, the Justice shall order him or her to be whipt on the naked Back, not exceeding Thirty-nine Lashes, and after sent from Parish to Parish by the Constables of the same, the next strait Way to the Parish where he or she dwelt for one whole Year last-past; and in like manner, they shall convey poor and impotent Vagrants to the Place of their last Abode.

Provided no fuch Persons, as above-said, shall be returned, if they have dwelt in the Parish above the Space of Three Months.

Constable, or Tything-man, neglecting his Duty herein, shall forfeit 40 s. for every Default, one Half to the Church-wardens for the Poor of the Parish, the other to the Informer, to be recovered before any Justice of Peace.

The Church-wardens of each Parish in this Island, with the Assent of any Two Justices in that Precinct, may bind any poor Children of the said Parish Apprentices, where they shall see convenient; Males till Twenty-one Years

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of Age, and Females till Eighteen, or the time of their Marriage, to be as effectual as if fuch Child were of fuch Age, and by Indenture of Covenant bound him or herself.

Besides the collecting a great many of these Laws, there was little elfe happened remarkable during the Government of Sir Thomas Lynch: He was zealous against the Pyrates, and feveral Men of War were employed by him, for no other Purpose but to scour the Coasis, and clear the American Seas of these desperate Men, who yet continued to plunder. The Ships of War had indifferent Success; feveral French Privateers fell into their Hands. and were destroyed. The Spaniards now likewise began to exert their Courage, and appeared with greater Freedom and Spirit; they attacked some Pyrate Sloops of Carthagena, and destroyed them; but the Governor's Death put a Stop to further Severities of this Kind.

I am,

SIR,

Yours, &c.

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LETTER VIII.

SIR,



O Sir Thomas Lynch succeeded Col. Hender Molesworth, a Man of great Worth and Honour, whom King William afterwards created a Baronet. This Gen-

tleman behaved to the universal Satisfaction of the Island; his Deportment was courteous, he was easy of Access, given to no Vice or Extravagance, and effectually recommended himself to every one by a sincere upright Conduct: In his Time the Laws were well executed; Trade revived, and the Colony was at Peace, and happy: He was a Man of moderate Principles, nor expressed any manner of Disregard to those who differed from the established Opinions.

The Jews began about this time to make a confiderable Figure; their Numbers daily increased, and as they understood Trade better than any of the Planters or Merchants could pretend to do, the Governor found it necessary to encourage that People: They were allowed many Privileges, and had a Permission to erect Synagogues, and perform Divine

Worship

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Worship according to their own Forms. Whether or not such Encouragement was good Policy, I shall not determine, nor have I Time to enumerate the Advantages and Disadvantages that accrue to the Island from them: I can't therefore form a Judgment on the Matter; but it is certain their Industry and Moderation may serve as a Pattern, and shew that Excess of any kind is incompatible with the Interests of a Trader; at the same time their little roguish Tricks are such, that prove very detrimental to any Society in which they live.

In this Gentleman's Government King Charles II. died, of whose Death as soon as he got Notice, he proclaimed the Duke of York, first at St. Jago, and then with the same Solemnity at Port-Royal: The Council and Assembly met, and a very loyal Address was transmitted to the King, which was

graciously received.

At this time, the small Remains of the old Privateers were almost entirely cut off; in 1689, at the Instigation of the Indians, they landed and were put to the greatest Distress; they were not only deserted, but their Retreat intirely cut off, by which means all that Company quite perished. At the same time, the French King sent express Orders to all the Governors of the French Colonies, to pursue them with the utmost Severity. By this means, these brave Fellows, who had

so long carried their Fortune on their Swords, and been engaged in so many hazardous Exploits, who could not endure a peaceable quiet Life, nor desist from Robberies and Plundering, were quite extirpated; nor hear we any more about them, till the War broke out betwixt France and England, when the former Method was again resumed, but with less Glory and Success.

In 1687. a Post-Office was first erected in Jamaica, and Mr. James Wade made Post-Master: This, tho' well designed, and might have served excellent Purposes, yet had very little Effect. The Place is now, however, well supplied, and Letters regularly dispatched; Mr. Macfarlane is present Post-Master, a

Gentleman of Honour and Probity.

The same Year Christopher Duke of Albemarle was appointed Governor of Jamaica. It was given out, that this Nobleman was fent hither, as to a kind of Banishment for his Zeal against Popery: But whatever his Grace's Friends may fay of the matter, there are few but ascribed it to another Cause. He had his Eye on the Riches of the Island, and his Fortune being impaired, he judged the readiest way to restore it, would be to accept of fuch a fine Government, where he could have many easy Opportunities to advance his Interests. He set out from Spithead in the Assistance Man of War, together with his Lady, and a vast Retinue on Board, and arrived

Letter 8. of JAMAICA. 251 arrived at Jamaica in the January follow-

On Sunday the 19th of February 1687. there was an Earthquake in Jamaica: It came by Shocks; there were Three of them, with a little Pause between; it lasted about a Minute's time in all, and was accompanied with a small Noise; it was generally felt all over the Island; some Houses were cracked, and very near ruined, others uncovered of their Tiles, very few escaped some Injury, and the People were every-where in a great Consternation; the Ships in the Harbour of Port-Royal felt it, and one that was Eastward of the Island, coming hither from Europe, met with a Hurricane at the same time: A Gentleman declared, that he faw the Ground rife like the Sea in a Wave, as the Earthquake paffed along, and then it went Northward.

While the Duke of Albemarle was Governor, little occurred worth Notice: A Proclamation was published, for the more effectual reducing and suppressing Pyrates and Privateers in America; but this was little else than mere Matter of Form, for they were quite

rooted out before this Time.

Sir Hans Sloane, Bart. the present President of the Royal Society, attended his Grace as Physician in Ordinary; and it was at this time he made that admirable Collection of Plants, &c. which he since published.

The Duke did not long enjoy his new Government; the Alteration of the Climate, and drinking a little too hard, hastened his Death. His Body was embalmed, and brought to England in the same Ship in which the Dutchess (afterwards Dutchess of Montague) returned.

Colonel Hender Mole worth was made Governor anew. About this time the Revolution happened in England; King William's Title was acknowledged here, and he and Queen Mary were joyfully proclaimed. There was an Agreement made this Year between the English and Spaniards, for a Trade in Negroes, between Jamaica and the Spanish West-Indies: This Treaty was managed by Don Santiago del Castillo in London. The King of Spain afterwards appointed this Gentleman to be Commissary-General at Jamaica, for supplying the Spanish West-Indies with Slaves: Before he left London, King William conferred the Honour of Knighthood upon him, and he was afterwards known by the Name of Sir James Castile. He came to this Place, where his good Conduct gained him universal Esteem: He lived many Years, and acquired several fine Estates, which go by his Name to this Day.

In 1690. the Earl of Inchequin was appointed Governor, who soon after arrived. In his Time the Negroes began to make Disturbance; the Runaways, and those descend-

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ed of the Spanish Slaves, who were never conquered, began to make Irruptions: They came down, and robbed the nearest Plantations, committing at the same time unheard-of Barbarities; they had fuch a fure Retreat. that all Endeavours to draw from it, were in vain. Several Parties attempted to dislodge them, but it proved ineffectual; and the poor white Men were either miferably butchered, or returned quite spent with the intolerable Fatigue. This bad Success encouraged Gentlemens Slaves to rebel. An univerfal Disposition to this, appeared amongst the Negroes: However, such effectual Care was taken to prevent their getting Arms, and other Methods contrived to hinder any Infurrection, that they stirred in no Place, but only in Mr. Sutton's Plantation, where Four hundred of them broke out into Rebellion. and having forced the House, murdered their Master, and every white Man that belonged to the Plantation, seized upon Fifty Muskets, Blunderbuffes, and other Arms, together with a great Quantity of Powder and Shor, Four small Field-pieces, and other Provisions. They marched to the next Plantation, where they repeated their Murders, and killed every White they could find.

The Alarm was immediately given to the adjacent Quarters, and Fifty Horse and Foot marched to attack them: By this means their further Progress was stopped, and their De-

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fign of joining the other Rebels prevented; for all the Plantations round were on their Guard; and as a certain Terror ever attends Guilt, they had not Courage, notwithstanding their vast Superiority in Number, to dispute their Passage; but retired back, and prepared to defend themselves in Mr. Sutton's great House: They had not been long there. till a good Body of Men came and attacked them; nor did they long defend themselves. but fled, doing all the Mischief in their Power, as they made off, firing the Canepieces; but a Party of white Men fell on their Rear, routed and pursued them several Miles. Many of the Blacks were killed, and Two hundred of them threw down their Arms, and submitted; the rest were afterwards either killed or taken. The Loss ofwhite Men was only Sixteen, besides those who were murdered on the first Rifing. Of the Blacks near Two hundred were destroyed; and tho' some were pardoned, yet most of those who had submitted, met with that Fate which they well deserved.

A little before this, the War broke out betwixt England and France; and as King William was the Head of that great Confederacy, and gave Life and Soul to their Counsels, he took care to wound the Franch in the most sensible Parts. Their West-India Colonies were a sure Fund, whence every Year a great Part of Europe was supplied with

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with those valuable Commodities which they produced; it became therefore so wise and great a King, to endeavour to stop the Source of Riches, which was so prejudicial to the Nation which he governed. To effect this. he sent several Men of War to famaica, to be employed at the Discretion of the Governor. My Lord Inchequin received likewife express Orders to exert himself on this important Occasion; he therefore sent the Swan and Guernsey Men of War, with the Quaker Ketch, to destroy what French Ships they could find on the Coast. Mr. Obryan was Chief in this Expedition, and behaved admirably well: He destroyed the French Settlements in Hispaniola, and took a great many Ships, which he carried in as Prizes to famaica.

But, at a time when the Island was full of gay Hopes, wallowing in Riches, and abandoned to Wickedness, the most dreadful Calamity befel it, that ever happened to a People, and which many look upon as a tremendous

Judgment of the Almighty.

On the 7th of June 1692. one of the most violent Earthquakes happened, that perhaps was ever selt. It began between Eleven and Twelve o' Clock at Noon, shook down and drowned Nine Tenths of Port-Royal in Two Minutes time; all the Wharfs at Port-Royal sunk at once. There were soon several Fathom Water where the Streets stood; and

and that one which suffered the least Damage, was so overflowed, that the Water swelled as high as the upper Rooms of the Houses. The Earth, when it opened, swallowed up People, and they rose in other Streets, some in the Middle of the Harbour. and yet were faved; tho' at the same time, about 2000 Whites and Blacks perished in this Town. In the North-side, above 1000 Acres of Land funk, and Thirteen People with it. All the Houses were thrown down over the Island, and the surviving Inhabitants were forced to dwell in Huts. The Two great Mountains, at the Entrance into Sixteen-Mile-Walk, fell and met, and so stopped up the River, that it was dry from that Place to the Ferry for a whole Day; by which means vast Quantities of Fish were taken up, to the great Relief of the Distressed.

At Yellows a great Mountain split, and fell into the level Land, covered several Settlements, and destroyed Nineteen white People. A Gentleman had his Plantation removed half a Mile from the Place where it formerly stood. The Water of all the Wells

flew out at the Top.

In Port-Royal, the Watermen and Sailors made no Scruple to plunder; but Heaven punished the wicked Attempt; for a second Shock destroyed most of these Wretches, whose Consciences so great a preceding Judgment could not alarm.

When

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When the first great Shake was over, the frightened Inhabitants crouded to the Church. glad to put up a Prayer in this Extremity, tho' perhaps they never had attempted it in their Lives before; and, amongst them, a Multitude of Jews devoutly kneeled, and

called upon the Name of Jesus.

Almost all the Ships and Sloops were overfet and lost in the Harbour; nor had even the Men of War a better Fate. The violent Motion of the Sea drove the Swan Frigate over the Tops of many Houses, and beat in her Round-house; she did not overset, which happy Accident helped to fave the Lives of

some Hundreds of People.

A great and hideous Noise was heard in the Mountains; several runaway Negroes were so terrified, that they became good, and returned to their Masters; the Salt-Pans were quite overflowed, the Water forced its Paffage from Twenty or Thirty Places, and came out with fuch Violence, that had so many Sluices been drawn up at once, they could not have run with greater Force.

The Inhabitants of Spanish-Town, imagining the Rio Cobre was lost, thought of removing; but in a few Days, the River having forced its Passage another way, their

Fears and Apprehensions vanished.

The Shake was stronger in the Country than in the Town; the Mountains split, all Plantations and every House were destroyed;

from the Openings whole Rivers spouted out to a vast Height in the Air, accompanied with Stenches and offensive Smells.

But Port-Royal, the finest Town in the West-Indies, and at that time the richest Spot in the Universe, was almost intirely destroyed: so that in the Place where rich Merchants lived, and fine Warehouses stood, now is

Twenty Fathom Water.

Several Gentlemen of undoubted Honour, who were at Liganiea, reported, That the Sea retired so from the Land, that the Bottom appeared dry for Two or Three hundred Yards; and in a Minute or Two's Time, it returned and overflowed a great Part of the

adjacent Shore.

The Number of People who perished on this fatal Day, was upwards of Three thou-fand. A general Sickness happened after, which cut off a great many more; and the Island became so unhealthful, that to this Day it is never looked upon to be so wholfome as before. Every 7th of June is appointed to be observed as a Day of solemn Fasting and Humiliation, on account of this terrible Disaster.

This gave Rise to the flourishing Town of Kingston, which began at this time to be first inhabited; for Port-Royal being in a manner desolate, the principal Merchants removed further up, and began to build; which, by degrees, soon gave the new Settlement the

Face

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Face of a Town; it has been improved fince, to such a Pitch, that it can almost vie with the antient *Port-Royal*. But for a further Account of this Earthquake, and the dreadful Devastation it made, I refer you to the *Philosophical Transactions*.

Altho' Jamaica suffered most, yet this terrible Shock was not confined to this Island alone; it was almost universal, and felt near at the same Time in most Parts of the habi-

table World.

The Enemies of Great-Britain were not idle Spectators of such a dreadful Event; the French proposed to make an easy Conquest of a ruined Island, where Poverty, Sickness, and every Hardship prevailed: So much was famaica changed! They invaded the Place with sure Hope of Success; but tho the Inhabitants had so many Difficulties to struggle with, yet they still retained their pristine. Spirit, and native Courage; the Invaders were repulsed, and only Eighteen of them left to carry the News of their Defeat.

Soon after the Lord Inchequin died, and King William conferred the Government on Sir William Beeston. This Gentleman arrived in Jamaica in March 1693. and set himself on reforming a great many Abuses, which the late Distractions had occasioned. Agents were appointed for soliciting the Colony's Affairs in England, to whom was allowed

450 l. per Annum.

This

This Year the Mordaunt Man of War was cast away on the Rocks near Cuba; and soon after, the Frigate was taken by Two French Men of War, and carried into Petit Guaves, where the Enemy were making Preparations to invade the Island. The Governor had the first certain Advice of this from Captain Elliot, who escaped with Two Persons besides, in a Canoe, which could carry no more.

On this Notice, all proper Precautions were taken, and every thing done that was necessary to put the Island into a good Posture of Defence. The principal Part of the Forces were posted about Port-Royal, and all Parts were guarded in such a manner, as their Circumstances could best allow.

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Horse, advanced against the French; they were so spirited against them, that tho' they had marched all Night, they not only put a Stop to their Pursuit of the English, who had quitted the Breast-work, but attacked them in fo gallant a manner, that they made them retreat very precipitately. Several small Skirmishes happened after, by which means the French loft a great many Men, and some of their best Officers: This discouraged them from proceeding in the Enterprize; and having filently, under the Cover of Night. re-imbarked their Men, they set the Prisoners ashore, and sailed homewards. They lost upwards of 700 Men in this Expedition. On the Side of the English, there were only killed about 100, and most of these were Jews and Negroes. Captain Elliot, who first gave Notice of this Invafion, had a Medal and Chain given him of 100 l. Value, and 500 l. in Money; and the other Two, who came in the same Canoe, had 50 l. a Piece.

The next Year King William dispatched a Squadron under the Command of Captain Wilmot, with 1200 Land-Forces aboard, under Col. Luke Lillingston, with Orders to make an Attempt upon the French Settlements in Hispaniola. The Governor of Jamaica gave them all poffible Affiftance; nor were the Spaniards backward in giving Aid on this Occasion. The Spanish and English Forces joined, and ruined all the French Set-

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tlements: A vast Plunder was carried off; but the treacherous Commodore, who had other Views than ferving his King and Country with that Fidelity which his Trust required, left the Soldiers destitute of all manner of Provisions, and exposed to the most intolerable Hardships; however, the Courage of the Officers fomething repaired this Difadvantage: They marched boldly on, and attacked Port de Paix. At the same time. the Commodore, with about 400 Seamen, formed a sham Siege on the other Side: The Place was carried by the Land-Forces for the French finding themselves hard pressed, broke through the Commodore's Party, killed a great many, and escaped. The Fort was demolished, and the Remains of the English Forces were carried to Jamaica, where most of them died. Nor did the avaritious Commodore live to enjoy his ill-got Booty; he died in his Return to England.—May never Villains have a better Fate!

By this means the French were so dispirited, that they never after made any open Attempt on Jamaica. M. Pointi, with a French Squadron, in the Year 1696. made a Feint of attacking this Island; but was glad to get off, when he saw the Inhabitants so well prepared to receive him: Admiral Neville pursued him, and took one of the richest Ships belonging to his Squadron, which was worth about 200,000 l. Sterl. The brave Admiral

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Admiral died in August after; and at the same time, no less than Seven Captains of Men of War, together with a vast Number of private Men; their Death being occasioned by the Heat, and the unhealthful Climate.

'Tis natural to the French to talk big, and do little: The very next Year they gave out, that they would invade Jamaica: Sir William Beeston, on this Advice, dispatched Captain Moses in a Sloop, who landed, and brought off a Prisoner, one Grumbles. This Fellow was a Native of Jamaica, and had instigated the French to plunder and destroy his native Country. The Intelligence he gave, discocovered the Enemies Measures, and made them drop their Design. After which he was deservedly hanged, altho' the French threatened to do the same to Captain Price, Commander of a London Ship, whom they kept Prisoner at Petit Guaves.

In the Year 1698, the Scots were carrying on their Settlement at Darien, and had fortified Golden Island, at the Bottom of the Gulf, where the Isthmus between that and the South-Sea is so narrow, that a few Men might defend it against Multitudes, and deny all Passage that way to the Indies. I shall not pretend to justify the several Steps taken by King William to defeat that Design: 'Tis certain, never was a Colony harder used, or begun with a fairer View: If the Govern-

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ment had political Views in falfifying its Engagements, I shall not determine; but Scotland received fuch a Wound, that I'm afraid it will never recover. Orders were ent to the feveral Governors of the West-Indies, strictly prohibiting to give the Scots any Supply. The Governor of Jamaica was obliged to comply with this fevere Injunction: The poor Scots were treated like common Pyrates, were denied the Necessaries of Life, Wood and Water, and every thing elfe, which the Law of Nations obliges one Part of Mankind to supply another with. They set out, persuaded of necessary Assistance; for this, they had the Faith of the King; but how little is even that to be depended upon, when Interest turns the Balance! Two Ships, which contained a Number of halfstarved dying Creatures, that were refused Access to any Port, and reduced to the greatest Exigencies and Necessity, by Famine and Sickness, run ashore upon the Coast of 7amaica, where the greatest Part died, yet several lived to make fine Estates in this Place. Colonel Guthrie died but a few Years ago; he acquired a great Fortune, and arrived at the first Honours in the Island. Colonel Blair came over much about this time; he was by Profession a Surgeon, and soon re-300 commended himself to the Esteem of alling and made one of the handsomest Fortunes. in the Island, with an intire fair Character: He

He died in the Year 1728. Custos of Spanish-Town, and first Colonel of all the Militia. His Good-nature and fine Sense gained him fuch universal Esteem, that few ever lived more respected, or died more regretted. He has left a Son now in England for Education, and Three Daughters, whose fine Behaviour, polite Education, and good Sense, make them very justly admired by all that know or see them. Colonel Dowdall is yet alive. who came over in one of these Ships. This Gentleman was an Officer at the Battle of the Boyne, and behaved with uncommon Courage in the Royal Cause. He attended his Majesty on his triumphant Entry into Dublin; afterwards he came to Scotland with the brave General Mackay, and was engaged at Gillicranky. He remained there till the Darien Company offered him extraordinary Encouragement to command their Forces: On this he dropped his Commission, embarked with the rest, and was at last involved in the same general Misfortune. On his Arrival here, he applied himself to the Business of an Overseer, but his good Parts could not lie long concealed; he foon raifed himfelf, was distinguished by the successive Governors, and now enjoys a fine Estate, and the first Honours of the Island. Another Gentleman, who likewise deserves particular Notice, came to Jamaica at this time; I mean Colonel Campbell, one who still lives, and

and in all the Parts of Life, has behaved for agreeably, that few Instances can be shewn in this Part of the World, of such an untainted Character. He is at * present Custos of the Parish of St. Elizabeth.

In the Year 1699, the brave Admiral Bembow arrived at Jamaica with a Squadron of Men of War; but a mortal Distemper carried off a great many of the Officers, and an incredible Number of the Seamen; by which means this active Commander was obliged to lie still, and wait for Recruits, before he

could undertake any Expedition.

This Year there were several Losses at Sea, and the Governor Sir William Beeston died. Major General Selwyn was appointed in his room, in April 1701. The Squadron of Men of War was now recruited, and Bembow discharged his Trust in such a manner, as became so vigilant and brave a Commander. He continually cruized on the Coasts, and secured the British Trade to this Place, in such a way as was never done before, nor has been since.

Lewis XIV. having seized the Spanish Dominions, in Right of his Grandson, their Territories in America sell of Course into his Hands. This occasioned that long and bloody

^{*} This Gentleman died since this Letter was written, viz. 26 Jan. 1739-40. greatly regretted by the whole Island.

War, in which all Europe was concerned, and which ended by the Peace of Utrecht, King William died the following Year, and the new Governor whom he had appointed in Jamaica, did not long furvive his Arrival. The Council elected in his room Peter Beckford, Esq; This Gentleman governed at the Time of King William's Death, and joyfully proclaimed Queen Anne. He distinguished himself first against the French, and his opulent Fortune gained him a Superiority over most of the Planters. He died in a very unhappy manner, and left behind him Two Sons, One whereof lived to be the richest Subject in Europe. He has Twentytwo Plantations in this Island, and upwards of 1200 Slaves. His Money in the Banks, and on Mortgages, is reckoned at a Million and a half. His other Son was lately killed by a Gentleman, whom he had provoked.

On Queen Anne's Accession, the War with France broke out anew. Admiral Bembow on this, immediately fet Sail, and infulted the French, and their new Confederates the Spaniards, in their own Ports in America. He took many Prizes, and was still successful till the last, when he engaged with M. du Casse, whom indeed he beat; but through the Cowardice of his Captains, was obliged to defift from the Fight, before he had effected the total Destruction of the French Squadron. He had the Misfortune in this

Engagement to have his Leg broke by a Chain-shot, of which Wound he died soon after. Two of his Captains, Kirby and Wade, were tried for their Cowardice, and condemned to be shot to Death. Hudson, another, died before his Trial; and a fourth, Captain Constable, was cashiered from her Majesty's Service, and condemned to Imprisonment during her Royal Pleasure.

This Year the Queen was pleased to appoint the Right Honourable the Earl of Peterborough to be Governor of Jamaica, and gave him larger Powers than ever one in that Station enjoyed. Why he did not go, is a Question cannot be answered. However, a Squadron went to Jamaica, which did a great deal of Service to this Island.

The Merchants thought this a proper Opportunity to renew the Privateering-trade. They fitted out a great many Ships and Stoops, Nine or Ten or which attacked a Place, called Talow, on the Continent, about Ten Leagues from Carthagena, which they took, plundered and burned. From thence they failed to Caledonia, went up the River Darien, and persuaded the Indians to be their Guides, who, in Twelve Days, carried them to the golden Mines at Sancta Cruz Decana, near Sancta Maria.

The 9th Day of their March, they fell in with an Out-guard of Ten Men, which the Spaniards had posted at some Distance from

the

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the Place, of whom they took Nine; but the other escaping, gave Notice at the Mines of their Approach; upon which the richest of the Inhabitants retired with their Money and Jewels: However, the English, to the Number of 500 Men, attacked the Fort, drove out the Spaniards, and possessed themselves of the Mines, where there remained about Seventy Negroes, whom they fet to work, and continued there Twenty-one Days, in which time they got about Eighty Pounds Weight of Gold Dust; they also found several Parcels of Plate, which the Spaniards had buried when they left that Place. The English, at their Departure, burned all the Town, except the Church, and returned to their Sloops, carrying off the Negroes, and other very valuable Effects, besides their Gold Dust. Some went further up the River, and Two of the Privateers landed near Trinidado in Cuba, took the Town, burned Part of it, and brought off a confiderable Booty.

I am,

SIR.

Yours, &c.



LETTER IX.

SIR,

SHALL now continue my Relation. The following Year Colonel Thomas Handaside was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Jamaica; he was looked upon as

a brave Officer, and indeed his resolute and steady Behaviour, during his Government, shewed no less.

Soon after his Arrival, Port-Royal, which was lately rebuilt, and had begun to shine with its antient Glory, met with as fatal a Stroke as before, by the dreadful Earthquake; For the 9th of January 1704. between Eleven and Twelve in the Morning, happened thro' Carelessness in this Town, which, before Night, confumed it, without leaving One House standing. The Place being fituated on a small Neck of Land, surrounded in a great measure by the Sea, and the Streets and Lanes being narrow, the People could not fave so much of their Goods as they might have done in a more open Place; however, the Two Royal Forts and

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and Magazines did not receive any Damage, nor any of the Ships at Anchor, except One Brigantine and a Sloop, which were burnt. Most of the Merchants saved their Money, and Books of Accounts, and some of them considerable Quantities of Merchandize, by the Assistance of Boats from the Men of War.

The Governor, on this fad Occasion, summoned the Assembly to meet at King ston, recommended to them the Case of the poor Inhabitants, and acquainted them, that by Advice of the Council he had made fome Disbbursements for that End; several Barrels of Beef, Flour and fresh Provisions having been fent to them. Upon this Information the Assembly unanimously resolved, that they would reimburse the Treasury, what had been, or should be, expended for the Relief and Support of the distressed People, and prayed the Governor and Council to continue their Care of them: They also, with the Concurrence of the Lieutenant-Governor, took fuch further Resolutions as were necessary for the Safety and Welfare of the Island in this Exigency. They voted that Port-Royal should not be rebuilt, but that the People should remove to Kingston, where already the Streets were laid out, and where there were a great many Inhabitants. Port-Royal continued a long time after this a mere Heap

of Rubbish, but it was afterwards rebuilt, and is now a small handsome Town.

Vice-Admiral Groydon was appointed to fucceed Bembow; but before his Arrival, Captain Whetstone made a successful Expedition, took and destroyed a great many French and Spanish Ships in their very Harbours, and brought away 120 Prisoners, with a considerable Booty.

At this time there happened an universal Sickness over the Island, which carried off a vast Number of People, but especially of the late arrived Sailors and Soldiers; for Two thousand had come with Groydon's Squa-

dron.

On Shrove Tuesday, a Shake of an Earthquake was felt at King ston, but it did very

little Damage.

The repeated Success of the Men of War and Privateers, during this War, was incredible; not a Day passed, but Prizes were brought in; which shews us how advantageously this Island is situated, for annoying both French and Spaniards, in case of a War. A wise Government will improve such an Advantage, and were it but done in any the least vigorous manner, Jamaica would be a Mean of keeping the Spaniards quiet in the West-Indies; but at present, the Hands of every one are tied up, and they can only complain, when they see themselves insulted

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by the rascally cruel Spaniards, who well know the Situation of the Colony, and that they dare not make Reprisals. But to re-

turn:

Rear-Admiral Whetstone, having left the Island, deputed Captain Ker to command the Squadron in his room; but he abused his Trust so grossy, that the Council and Assembly were obliged to make Representations against him to the Court of Great-Britain. Orders were given to inquire into the Facts alledged against him; which being found true, Justice was done, and his Commission was taken from him, without leaving him any Hopes of his ever being employed in the Service again.

During the time of the War, the People of this Island were intent on nothing so much as encouraging the Privateers; and the sometimes they suffered considerable Losses, yet the many rich Prizes, which were daily brought in, made a sufficient Return. The Island became richer than it had been since Morgan's Days; by which means, Luxury was too much introduced, the Essets of

which are felt to this Day.

The Assembly began likewise to be refractory, shewed too little Respect to the Governor, and claimed extraordinary Po wers. They resused the necessary Supplies for maintaining the Forts, and defraying the publick Expence of the Island. The Governor, on this this Occasion, acted a bold and resolute Part; for, on their resusing to dissolve, on a Message he had sent them, he drew his Sword, and swore an Oath, he would soon disperse them. He went to the House; the affrighted Planters immediately run out; and one of the most considerable, being in too great a Haste, sell down the Stairs, and broke his Neck.

I hear of nothing else remarkable during this Government. On the Conclusion of the Peace, a new Set of Privateers infested the

American Seas.

Lord Archibald Hamilton was next made Governor. The Gentlemen here make very free with his Character; but, as I don't pretend to form a Judgment on the Matter, and the whole Fact being published, with relation to his Conduct in the Affair of the Babama Wrecks, I leave it to the Judgment of the Publick. He was recalled, after he had met with very hard Usage here, and Peter Haywood, Esq; appointed in his room. This Gentleman did not long continue in the Government; Sir Nicolas Lawes succeeded him. In the Year 1722. Aug. 28. a violent Hurricane happened, which did incredible Damage to the Island. The Assembly met, and appointed every 28th of August as a Day of folemn Fasting and Humiliation, to be obferved for ever. Indeed it must be acknowledged, that the 7th of June, (the Day on which the dreadful Earthquake happened, which

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which is likewise by Authority observed sacred) and the 28th of August, are most devoutly kept. The People put on, upon these Days, at least, the exterior Shew of Religion, and they may be called the only Two Holydays in the Year; for they hardly distinguish

Sunday from any other.

At this time, the famous Edward Teach, commonly known by the Name of Blackbeard, infested the American Seas. He was one of a most bloody Disposition, and cruel to Brutality. His Name became a Terror; and some Governors being remiss in pursuing him, he almost put a Stop to the Trade of feveral of the Northern Colonies. He was born in Jamaica, of very creditable Parents; his Mother is alive in Spanish-Town to this Day, and his Brother is at present Captain of the Train of Artillery. He was attacked by a Lieutenant of a Man of War, and was killed, after a very obstinate and bloody Fight. He took a Glass, and drank Damnation to them that gave or asked Quarter. His Head was carried to Virginia, and there fixed on a Pole.

To Sir Nicolas Lawes succeeded his Grace the Duke of Portland: He came to Jamaica with his Dutchess and Family, in the Year 1725. and was received with all imaginable Pomp and Splendor. The Assembly voted him a double Salary, to whatever a Governor before enjoyed. This generous Nobleman

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lived in a most polite manner, and never did a Governor recommend himself more, or kept such a handsome Court. He was remarkably civil, of easy Access, and affable to all. The Island grudged no Expence to oblige him; and if any Fault can be at all found with his Government, it is only this, That the Planters, who could not well afford such extraordinary Expences, spent too profusely, endeavouring

to imitate the Duke.

Soon after his Arrival, the King of the Mosquetoes, attended by a good many of his Subjects, came over and waited on his Grace. These are a Nation of Indians, situated betwixt Truxillo and Honduras; they submitted themselves to England, in the Time that the Duke of Albemarle was Governor of Jamaica: They were never conquered, but still maintained their Liberties, in spite of all the Attempts which the Spaniards made upon them, which only ferved to exasperate them the more against that proud Nation, to whom they are implacable Enemies, and are always doing Mischief. They have little to fear themselves, seeing their Country is surrounded by inaccessible Mountains and Morasses. By their Commerce with the English, they have learned a little of the Language: The Spaniards they call Little-Breeches, and whenever they fall in their way, murder them, which they call biding them. They are a mild inoffensive fort of People, never forfeit their

Letter 9. of JAMAICA. 277 their Word, have only One Wife, and have the highest Veneration for the Ceremony of Marriage. They adore the Sun. When any of them die, they put them in a Mat, and place them strait with their Face to the Eaft. The King has his Commission from the Governor of Jamaica; and therefore, on every new Governor's Arrival, they come over to know his Pleasure. During their Stay, they are maintained at the publick Expence, and cloathed in a very rich Dress. When they depart, they have a few trifling Presents made them, with which they are extremely well fatisfied.

Great Advantage might be made of the friendly Disposition of this People, in case of a War with Spain; and it is not to be doubted, but in case of a Rupture, the Government will improve so fair an Opportunity of advancing the Interests of the British Nation,

and its Colonies.

But to proceed with my History: The Duke of Portland received his Indian Majesty with a great deal of Courtesy; and having invited him to dine with him, they relate, That the poor King knew not which way to go up Stairs, but jumped up Step by Step. He likewise used such indecent Expressions, that the Dutchess was obliged to remove from Table. However, he was dismissed very civilly, and went home to his Subjects, proud of his good Entertainment. T 3

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The Duke lived not long in this Government; but dying in the Island, his Corpse was carried back to England. To him succeeded Major General Hunter: On his Arrival, an Embargo was laid on all the Shipping, which proved of infinite Disadvantage to the Island. Several necessary Laws were made for suppressing the rebellious Negroes: And as it was then feared, that the Island abounded with vast Numbers of disguised Papists, an Act was made, obliging all from Sixteen to Sixty, to abjure the Church of Rome openly. This occasioned great Heats, but the Governor's Party prevailed. He died

in March in the Year 1734.

The Honourable John Ascough, Esq; commanded, till his Majesty's Pleasure should be known: And as at this time, the rebellious Negroes had been very troublesome, it was found necessary to employ the whole Strength of the Island to reduce them. The Exercise of Civil Law was suspended, and the Martial took Place. Strong Parties were ordered out under proper Commanders; that under Captain Stoddart attacked Nauny Town in the Blue Mountains, which had been built by the Rebels, and was so situated, that a few Men might defend it against Thousands. The Captain was therefore obliged to carry along with him feveral small Field-pieces, and likewife to make his Approach with the greatest Caution, and without the least Noise.

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got before Night to the Foot of the Hill, and while it was yet dark, scaled the narrow Passage with a few of the most Resolute of his Company; and having, with the utmost Difficulty, got the Field-pieces mounted on the Eminence, began to play upon the Negro Town. The Pieces were loaded with Musketbullets, which killed and wounded a vast Number of the Rebels, who offered to make a Defence. They did not long sustain the Attack; but in less than half an Hour fled with the utmost Precipitation. The brave Captain pursued the Rebels, and gained a complete Victory. Several Hundreds of Negroes were killed, and many taken Prisoners. Their Town was demolished, their Provisions destroyed, and more real Hurt done them on that Day, than in Twenty Years before, and with little or no Loss of the Party who attacked them.

In other Quarters of the Island, they were likewise hard pursued, but not with the like Success. At Bagnels, the Negroes had the Courage to attack a large Party, under the Command of Colonel Edward Charleton, and Captain Ivy; these Gentlemen did not take care to keep the Party which they commanded, in good Order, but allowed them to straggle. The Rebels had very good Intelligence of their Circumstances, and watched their Opportunity accordingly. They placed an Ambuscade, and when the Officers were

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at Dinner, and few of the Party near, rushed out, and attacked the Hut where they were. Several Pieces were discharged, which killed a few; but the Firing had this good Effect, that it alarmed those of the Party which were nearest, who immediately stood to their Arms, and came up just in time to fave the Lives of their Officers. The Negroes fled, but the Pursuit after them was so faint, they soon lost Sight of them; and it was not known which way they took: And as Spanish-Town, was only about Thirty Miles Distance, the Alarm reached there. that the Rebels were making that way. The President received the Account about One o' Clock in the Morning, and immediately ordered the Trumpets to found, and the Drums to beat: Before Six, a fresh Party of Foot, and a Troop of Horse, were ordered out to support the other, in case they should have occasion; and Care was taken they should be commanded by Officers of more experienced Bravery.

In Two Days they came up to a Place where, by the Fires which remained unextinguished, they knew the Negroes had lodged the Night before; and having followed the Track, got Sight of them soon after. Captain Edmunds disposed his Men for an Engagement, but the Rebels had not Courage to venture a Battle. They dispersed, and sled several ways: However, a good many were killed, and more taken.

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After this, little was done against them; nor indeed was it possible, for they divided into small Companies; nor have they ever since gathered to any considerable Body.

In the April after this, a very accidental Murder was committed, which produced one of the most extraordinary Trials that ever was in Jamaica: A trifling Quarrel arose between Two Gentlemen: The one, whose Name was Mr. Stevens, a confiderable Merchant in Kingston, had affronted Mr. Vale, a Barrister at Law. Some Gentlemen were too ready to incense them; and Mr. Vale having met with the other, one Morning, in the Coffee-house, beat him with a small Stick; they afterwards grappled, and in the Fall, Mr. Stevens's Head dashed upon a Stone, which occasioned a Fracture, and he died soon after. Mr. Vale was brought to his Trial, which lasted near Twelve Hours. He spoke with great Vivacity himself, but the Jury, after they had been inclosed near Two Days, brought him in Guilty of Murder, and he was condemned to be hang'd. But he prevented the ignominious Fate which threatened him, by a more ignominious Action, cutting his own Throat, the Night before the Day appointed for his Execution.

Soon after the President died, and the Honourable John Gregory, Esq; succeeded him in the Government. He was formerly Chief

Justice,

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Justice, and maintained a fair Character in all the Offices which he has had the Honour

to enjoy.

In December following arrived his Excellency Henry Cunningham of Balguban, Efg; a Gentleman who did Honour to his Country, whose fine Sense and good Parts reflected a Glory on the British Nation; tho' Governor, yet he never lost the Affability of a private Gentleman. Never was one more beloved or careffed, or with greater Justness. He knew the Bleffings of Liberty; and, had he lived, would have redreffed many Grievances under which the Poor laboured. It was his Fault to begin too foon to curb the Insolence of the Planters, and a Difference with one of the most considerable of them perhaps hastened his Death. He did not live upwards of Six Weeks after his Arrival: He died at Four o' Clock in the Afternoon, and, by express Orders of the Council, was buried the fame Night: Yet that Privacy which they defigned, did not hinder Hundreds from attending him to the Grave. I loved him while living, and lamented over him when dead, and paid that Tribute to fo worthy a Character, which a virtuous Muse is always ready to give.

The same Year died Dr. James Hay, Chief Justice of the Island, a Gentleman, whose many Virtues made him justly esteemed. He had

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had a peculiar Softness in his Nature, which made him beloved by all; and at the same time a rigid Strictness to Offenders, which made Villains fear him. This excellent Perfon gave a distinguishing Instance of the Power of Virtue on a human Heart: For, altho' he resided upwards of Twenty Years in so wicked a Place, he was never known to give into any of its Debaucheries: An Oath he never was heard to swear, nor ever neglected his Family Devotions.

I am,

SIR,

Yours, &cc.

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LETTER X.

SIR,

SHALL now acquaint you with a I material Change in the Affairs of this Island, occasioned by Two great Events: The Submission of the rebellious Negroes, and the War which fince my last Letters, has been declared between the Crowns of Great-Britain and Spain; an Event so defirable and long-wish'd for by all true Britons, and particularly by the People of this Island, who wanted nothing more than to be left at Liberty to revenge the Cruelties, and the Depredations they have fo long suffered from the insulting Spaniards, thro' the great Lenity and Forbearance of the Gentlemen at the Helm of Affairs in Britain, who at length appear roused out of the Lethargy, their Enemies attributed to them, to avenge the Infults offered, not only to the Subjects, but the Crown of Great-Britain, by an Enemy not confiderable enough to appear in Sight of the Flag they have long defy'd.

But

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But I will resume my former Method, and shall next take Notice, that these Two great Events seem reserved to the happy Governor-ship of the present Gentleman, who succeed-

ed the excellent Governor Cunningham.

And this is the Honourable Edward Trelawny, Esq; who now fills that important Place to the universal Satisfaction of the whole Island. Before his Arrival the Administration again devolved upon the Honourable John Gregory, Esq; who always acted with that Firmness and Prudence which became one in such an eminent Station; his Character is to be strictly honest, and severely just; no Motives could ever persuade him to forgive the Crimes of Convicts, nor could the Solicitations or Prayers of the most considerable, induce him to deviate from the known Laws and Rules of Justice.

On Mr. Trelawny's Arrival, he was very handsomely received by the principal Gentlemen, and had freely allowed him the same Salary which any of their former Governors enjoyed, except the Duke of Portland. The first Acts of his Administration were to put the Island in a better Posture of Desence, than it had been for some Years before. He ordered the several Forts to be viewed, and took effectual Care, that such Repairs as were necessary, should be instantly set about. He foresaw that Matters were like to come to an open Rupture with Spain, and therefore re-

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folved to be strictly on his Guard; for as he was intirely acquainted with the Importance of the Island to Great-Britain, and of what Advantage to it a good Security within itself would be, so he effectually provided against any Apprehensions of a Spanish Invasion, by taking care of the Forts, and appointing Officers of Experience and Resolution to command the Militia, who foon trained them, and brought them to know the Military Art to much greater Perfection than they did before: Nor did he fail by all possible Methods to procure them Quietness within themfelves. 'Tis well known what vast Expence of Blood and Treasure the Island had been at to suppress the rebellious Negroes. The English Inhabitants, for near Fifty Years past, constantly employed a Force against them, and were many times obliged to arm the whole Colony, but in vain notwithstanding; for tho' they distressed them a great deal, yet they still found means to keep together, and defend themselves in their almost inaccessible Fastnesses, against all the Attempts which were made to dislodge them. After the Island had been in Arms for Nine Months together in the Years 1735 and 1736. during all which time the Exercise of the Civil Law was suspended, and yet nothing very material effected against the Negroes; every one began to despair; Hope itself seem'd to have nothing to trust to; the Planters were afraid that

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that the Evil was not to be remedied, and the common People were quite dispirited; no one offered to settle near the Place of the Rebels Rendezvous, and many Settlements, which had been lately made, were either quite deserted, or so little Care taken of them, that they turned to no Account: By this means, the best and most fertile Part of the Island was of no Service, but remained overgrown with Woods and Shrubs, of no manner of Use, but to afford a sure Shelter to the

Runaways.

In this Situation was Jamaica on Mr. Trelawny's Arrival: He foon perceived the infinite Disadvantage it was to the Place, to have fuch a Set of inveterate Enemies lodged in its very Bosom; and at the same time saw, that open Force could never reduce them to Subjection: He justly thought, that the inhuman Cruelties which were often exercised on these unhappy Wretches, when their unlucky Stars threw them into the Hands of white Men, were the principal Reasons which made them refuse to submit; and therefore refolved to try gentle Means, which were foon attended with all the happy Confequences that could be wished. On a Promise of Freedom and Security, the Negroes laid down their Arms, and all to a Man chearfully fubmitted: The Articles on which they furrendered, contain little further than a Ratification of his Excellency's Promise for their future

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future Freedom, and an Assurance of his Majesty's Protection on their observing certain Conditions. They are allowed a Chief to govern them, but he is to do nothing without the Direction of the Governor of the Island, and several white Men live among them to observe their Actions.

Thus, in a very small Space of Time, was this great Event brought about beyond the Hopes of all, and on such advantageous Terms, as exceeded the Wishes of every one.

Is it not natural here to observe, how strongly the Love of Liberty prevails in the Breasts of Men, notwithstanding the most wretched Circumstances? These Runaways endured more for near the Space of a Century, than can be found on Record of any State or People. They struggled with a superior Force, went naked, exposed to the Inclemencies of the Air, fed on Roots and Fruits, and chearfully ventured their Lives to secure themselves free. Can the History of old Rome produce greater Examples? They, tho' unfortunate, held it out to the last, and made Terms not inglorious to themfelves. The other, always successful, fell a Prey to one of its own Citizens.

Soon after this, his Majesty issued out Letters of Marque and Reprisal against the Crown and Subjects of Spain; which no sooner reached Jamaica, but the Governor made them

publick,

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publick, and gave Commissions according to his Instructions. They have since fitted out many Privateers, which have done good Service, and brought into the Island many rich Prizes. One of them landed a few Men on the Island of Cuba, where they plundered a whole Town, and returned without the Loss The Planters have exerted themof a Man. selves in a very remarkable manner, having largely encouraged the Sailors to pursue the common Enemy. And these again have been as forward to push on a just War. They expressed the greatest Chearfulness, and with many loud Huzza's went aboard, to fight in their Country's Caufe.

Edward Vernon, Esq; being appointed Vice-Admiral of the Blue, arrived in famaica in September last. As this Gentleman had always appeared to be intirely well affected to the true Interest of Britain, and joined with those who thought the Glory and Honour of his Nation could be no ways retrieved but by a vigorous War, he soon made it evident, that British Courage, when free and unrestrained, was able to humble that haughty and insulting Enemy, and make the Spaniards once more tremble within their very strongest Fortifications.

His Attack on Porto Bello is a Piece of History which gains immortal Honour to the British Name, and will convince Mankind what our brave Countrymen can do, when

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8 repeated Injuries rouse them to a just Re-

But that you may the better judge of the Boldness of this Attempt, and of the Conduct and Skill of the Officers, as well as of the private Men, it will not perhaps be disagreeable to give some Account of the Place.

Porto Bello is a Town which confifts of about Five hundred Houses, Two Churches, a Treasury, a Custom-house and Exchange: The Inhabitants depend intirely upon the Fair, which is held in that Place every Two or Three Years, and which lafts about Six Weeks, accordingly as the Galleons happen to arrive from Carthagena, where they always first dispose of part of their Goods, and then come to Porto Bello; where they are met by the Merchants from the great Cities of Lima and Panama, with Millions of Money to purchase their Merchandise. During the Time of the Fair, they can scarce find Room enough for the Chests of Money which are brought to that Place; and some make 10,000 Dollars for the Use of their House, in the time of the Sale. Lima and Panama can only be supplied with Goods from Porto Bello. It lies on the North-side of the famous Ishmus of America, known by the Name of the Ifthmus of Darien; which running from East to West between the North and South Seas, joins the Two vast Continents of bns. North

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North and South America. It is about 18 Leagues from Panama, which lies on the South-fide of the Island: It has a very fair, large and commodious Harbour, affords good Anchorage, and Shelter for Ships, having a narrow Mouth, and spreading wider within. At the Bottom of the Harbour lies the Town, bending about the Shore like a Half-Moon: It is long and narrow, having Two principal Streets, besides Lanes that go a-cross: with a small Parade about the Middle of it, Surrounded with pretty fair Houses. The Town lies open to the Country, and at the East-end of it, where the Road to Panama goes out, (because of the Hills that lie to the Southward of the Town, and obstruct the direct Passage) there lies a long Stable, running North and South from the Town, to which it joins; this is the King's Stable for the Mules that are employed in the Road betwixt Porto Bello and Panama. It is deem'd a very unhealthy Place: The East-fide is low and fwampy, and the Sea, at low Water, leaves the Shore within the Harbour bare a great way from the Houses, which having a black filthy Mud, it stinks very much, and breeds noisom Vapours thro' the Heat of the Climate, it lying in the 10th Degree of North Latitude. It was defended by Three Forts: The Iron Fort, on the North-side of the Mouth of the Harbour, with a Hundre Guns; the Gloria Castle, with a Hundred II 2 and

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and Twenty, on the South-fide of the Harbour, a Mile from the Iron Fort; and the Fort of Hieronymo, with Twenty Guns.

Having given this short Description of the Place, I shall now proceed to a particular Account of its late Demolition by Admiral Vernon: He was supplied in Jamaica with fuch Necessaries as he wanted; the Governor and many others expressed the greatest Chearfulness in affisting his Defigns; and having embarked Two hundred Soldiers, he fet Sail, on the 5th of November, from Port-Royal Harbour, with his Majesty's Ships the Burford, which the Admiral himself commanded; the Hampton-Court, Commodore Brown; the Norwich, Captain Herbert; the Worcester, Captain Main; the Princess Louisa, Captain Waterhouse; and the Stafford, Captain Trevor: Being Two of Seventy, Three of Sixty, and One of Fifty Guns.

On the 10th they gave Chace to a Spanish Sloop, bound from Carthagena to Porto Bello, who, on firing the first Gun, struck. This was very lucky to the Admiral; for few of his Pilots were acquainted with the Coasts Westward of Chagre. On the 16th, They saw Four Sail, which escaped them in the Night-time, and having got into Porto Bello,

alarmed the Place.

On the 21st, about Two o'Clock, they came up with Porto Bello Harbour; where the Spaniards had hoisted the Flag of Defiance upon

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upon the Iron Fort, and (as they after-wards owned) were full of the Hopes of

finking the English Squadron at once.

Commodore Brown, in the Hampton-Court, was the first who began the Attack, who performed his Part with a great deal of Resolution, Courage and Conduct; as the Wind had failed, he was obliged to drop his Anchor strait before the Castle, and received a very brisk Fire from the Spaniards, at the Distance of little more than a Cable's Length: But the Commodore was not long before he returned their Salute; for in Twenty-five Minutes time he fired above Four hundred Shot against the Castle; so that nothing was to be seen but Fire and Smoke, on both Sides.

The Norwich came up next, who met with the same Reception; but in Return, she aimed her Shot so well, as much discouraged the Spaniards, who hardly returned one Gun for three.

In less than half an Hour the Worcester got up, who anchoring close by the other Two, did a great deal of Damage to the Castle, knocking down the higher Part of it, and driving the Spaniards from their Guns.

The Admiral's Ship came up foon after with the Blue Flag at her Fore-top-mast Head, and the Bloody Flag at the Main-top-mast Head: The Admiral ordered the Anchor to be dropt within half a Cable's Length of the Caffle.

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Castle. Notwithstanding they had discharged very few Guns for some Minutes before, yet, as if they had resolved to summon up all their Courage against the Flag, they welcomed him with a terrible Volley; which, being at so short a Distance, took place with almost every Shot; one struck away the Stern of the Barge, another broke a large Gun upon the Upper-deck, a third went through the Foretop-mast, and a fourth went through the Arning, within Two Inches of the Main-mast, broke down the Barricado of the Quarterdeck very near the Admiral, and killed Three Men in a Moment, wounding Five others who stood by them; but this brisk Salute was returned in such a manner, that afterwards they did not the least Damage, tho' they continued now-and-then to fire a random Shot. The Fire of the small Arms soon commanded the Enemy's lower Batteries, and had a good Effect, in driving them from those which could have done most Harm: By this means the Men were also secured at landing.

As the Boats came near the Admiral's Ship, he called to them to go directly on Shore, under the Walls of the Fort, tho' there was no Breach made; which threw the Enemy into such a general Consternation, that the Officers and Men who had stood to the lower Battery, sled to the upper Part of the Fort, where they made a Signal for capitulating, which the Admiral answered by a White Flag;

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Flag; but it was with the greatest Difficulty he could restrain his own Men, and those on

board the Stafford, from firing.

In the mean time, the Soldiers and Seamen who had landed, had climbed up the Walls of the lower Battery, in this manner; one Man set himself close under an Embossier, whilst another climbed upon his Shoulders, and entered under the Mouth of a great Gun. All the Boats Crews were on the Platforms in Three Minutes after landing, and struck the Spanish Flag of Defiance, hoisting the English Colours. The Captains and Officers shut themselves up in a strong Lodgment; but upon the Lieutenant's, Mr. Broderick, firing a Gun or two thro' the Door, they quickly opened it, and very quietly yielded, to the Number of Five Officers and Thirty-five private Men out of Three hundred, the rest having been either killed or wounded, or having made their Escape.

This Action lasted only about Two Hours, in which Time the Iron Fort was gained by only Four Men of War, for Two had not come up; which, had it been in English Hands, would, it is thought, have been defended against all the naval Force of Spain.

The Goria Castle, and HieronymoFort, continued still siring; but most of their Shot sell short, or slew over the Rigging. The Admiral, sinding this, tried some of his lower Teer at them, which being new Guns, answered

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swered beyond Expectation, carrying over Gloria Castle, into the Town, none of the Shot salling short, and one of them went quite thro' the Governor's House, and others thro' several Houses in the Town.

The next Morning, the Admiral went aboard Commodore Brown, to confult with the Captains, and give the necessary Orders for Warping the Ships up the next Night, in order to attack the Gloria Castle; but was prevented by the Enemy's putting up a White Flag at the Gloria Castle, and sending a Boat with a Flag of Truce to the Admiral, with the Governor's Adjutant, and the Lieutenant of a Man of War, who brought the Conditions figned, on which they would capitulate. In Answer to which, the Admiral immediately drew up the Terms on which he would admit them to Capitulation, and dispatched them back again, allowing them only a few Hours to take their Resolution; and within the Time limited they accepted the Conditions offered them. And before Night, on Tuefday, November the 22d. the Admiral fent Captain Newton, who commanded the Detachment of Soldiers from Jamaica; who took immediate Possession of Gloria Castle, and St. Hieronymo Fort. The following are the Terms granted by the Admiral:

Article I. That the Garison be allowed to march out as defired, upon Condition the King

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King of Great Britain's Troops be put into Poffession of the Gloria Castle before Four o'Clock this Evening, and the Garison to march out by Ten o'Clock To-morrow Morning.

That the Inhabitants may either remove, or remain, under a Promise of Security for

themselves and their Effects.

II. That the Spanish Soldiers may have a Guard, if they think it necessary.

III. That they may carry off Two Cannons mounted, with Ten Charges of Powder

for each, and their Match lighted.

IV. The Gates of the Gloria Castle must absolutely be in Possession of the King our Master's Troops, by Four o'Clock, and the Spanish Garison shall remain in all Safety for their Persons and Effects, till the appointed Time for their marching out, and to carry with them the Provisions and Ammunition necessary for their Safety.

V. That the Ships, with their Apparel and Arms, be absolutely delivered up to the Use of his Britannick Majesty; but that all the Officers, Soldiers and Crews, shall have Three Days allowed them to retire with all their personal Effects; only one Officer being admitted on board each Ship and Vessel, to take Possession for the King our Master, and to see this Article strictly complied with.

VI. That provided the Articles above-mentioned are strictly complied with, and that Posefession be given of Castle St. Hieronyma, in the

fame

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fame manner as is stipulated for the Castle Glo. ria, then the Clergy, the Churches and Town, shall be protected and preserved in all their Immunities and Properties.

And that all Prisoners already taken shall be fet at Liberty before our leaving the Port.

Given under our Hands, on board his Majefty's Ship Burford, in Porto Bello Harbour, this 22d Day of November, 1739. O. S.

E. Vernon. Cha. Brown.

The Spaniards at first demanded, That they should have, not only an Indemnity for themselves, but likewise be allowed to keep Possession of all the Ships in the Harbour. This last was rejected; for these were the very Ships which had done our Merchants all the Injuries complained of on those Coasts.

In the Gloria Castle were found a Hundred and Twenty Guns, Two hundred small Arms and Blunderbusses, as many Swords, Two hundred Barrels of Powder, Four large Mortars, Thousands of Iron and Copper Balls; with the Guns and Ammunition in the Iron Castle, of which, about Eighty-seven (in all) are Brass: Together with Two Men of War, of Twenty-four Guns; One Snow, of Fourteen; Four good Sloops, a Petiaguay and Half-

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Half-Galley, 10,000 Dollars were likewife found, most of them hid in a Close-stool; which were distributed amongst the Sailors,

for their Encouragement.

The Admiral broke the Trunnions of all the Iron Guns, blasted all the Foundations, and burnt the Superstructures of the Castles; so that some Millions will hardly compensate the Damage, and 'tis next to impracticable to rebuild them on the same Spot.

The Loss of our Side was only Three Men, aboard the Admiral; Three on board the Worcester, and Two Soldiers; Five were wounded of the Admiral's Men, and One

aboard the Hampton-Court.

As we have had such a glorious Instance of the Conduct of the heroick Admiral Vernon, and the Courage of the Officers and Sailors with him, we may daily expect Advices of fresh Successes from this brave Gentleman, if he be duly supported from England; and there is no Doubt but he will, since the West-Indies is the only Place in which the haughty Spaniards may be most advantageously attacked by the English.

I am,

SIR,

Yours, &c.

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LETTER XI.

SIR,

N my preceding Letters I have given you the History of this Island, from the earliest Accounts, down to the present Times; and have endeavoured

to give you same Idea of the Place, its Situation, Extent and Trade, with whatever else appeared necessary to make the Relation instructive and agreeable. I shall now give you a summary Account of the Government of this Island.

The King of Great Britain appoints the Governor and Council, and the Reprefentatives of the People are chosen by the Freeholders. In these Three the whole Legislative Power consists, and is as near a Representation of the British Government, as the State of Affairs will allow. The Commander in Chief is Captain-General, Admiral and Chancellor of the Island; has Power to issue out all Sorts of Commissions; to summon and dissolve Assemblies; to make Counfellors;

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sellors; to pardon all Crimes, except Treason and Murder, and even for those to grant a Reprieve; to place and displace all Officers who are not by Patent: In a word, to act with sovereign Authority under his Majesty, always taking Advice of his Council, and has a negative Voice in passing of all Acts of the Assembly. As he is Chancellor, he is impowered to grant Administrations and Executorship, of the Estates of Persons dying intestate, and this brings them in no small Prosit.

His Salary is 2,500 l. a Year; the Duke of Portland indeed had 5000 l. but the Island was not able to continue it to his Successor. A considerable Present is generally made on a Governor's Arrival, and the Jews yearly contribute a very large Sum, which they give to his Excellency. His other Perquisites are very extraordinary, and 'tis justly esteemed the best Government in the King's

Gift (Ireland excepted).

The Council are Twelve in Number, and are generally Men of the best Estates and Quality in the Country; they are appointed by Letters of Mandamus from the King. On the Death or Dismission of any, the Governor nominates others to supply their Places. Their Business is to advise and affish the Governor, and to be a Check upon him, in case he exceeds the Bounds of his Commission. In the Assembly the Council forms the Upper-house,

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and claims a negative Voice, as the House of

Peers do in England.

The Assembly is composed of Members elected by the Suffrage of the Freeholders, and they do Business after the very same manner as the House of Commons do in Britain.

The Grand Court, which takes Cognizance of all Civil Pleas, as well as of Crimes which infer corporal Punishments, sits Four times in the Year. Their Session is limited to Twenty-one Days: 'Tis furprifing to fee what Business they dispatch in that short time. The present Chief Justice is George Ellis, Esq; a Gentleman who does Honour to the Country, and behaves after fuch a manner as to grace the Bench. He has Six Affistants, who are generally Men of the greatest Knowledge, and of the fairest Characters. His Salary is only 120 l. per Annum. His Affistants have nothing at all. There are a great many inferior Courts, who decide upon Causes of less than 20 1. Value, and Justice is very impartially distributed, and without Delay.

The Militia is under the Direction of Officers appointed by the Governor: All from

Sixteen to Sixty are obliged to lift.

The Revenue of the Island, communibus annis, is reckoned at 70,000 l. The constant Parties, which they have been obliged to send and pay, increase their Expences: Besides this,

there

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there are a vast Number of publick Officers,

who have very large Salaries.

The Parish Taxes are raised by the Vestry, for the Maintenance of the Minister and the Poor, and keeping the Churches in due

Repair.

This brings me naturally to confider the Church Affairs of the Island, and I am forry I am to give you such a dismal Account: You know, all the British Colonies in America are under the Inspection of the Bishop of London; and, the' his Lordship, no doubt, wishes well to the State of Religion in general, and to his own Diocese in particular; yet 'tis furprifing that fuch worthless and abandoned Men should be sent to such a Place as this. The Clergy here are of a Character so vile, that I do not care to mention it; for except a few, they are generally the most finished of our Debauchees. Messrs. Galpin. Johnston and May, are indeed Men whose unblemished Lives dignify the Character they bear. They generally preach either in their own Churches, or to a few in some private Houses every Sunday; but for others, their Church Doors are feldom opened.

This Island contains Three Sorts of Inhabitants, Masters, Servants, and Slaves. The Gentlemen are some of them extremely polite, and use their Inseriors with a great deal of Good-nature. However, all of them have something of a haughty Disposition, and re-

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quire Submission: A Stranger who knows how to apply to their Humour, generally gets into good Business; but they who are so unhappy as to missake it, may look for Business in another Place.

The Servants who behave well, are respected and encouraged; if they be found honest, and worthy of their Truft, they are handsomely used. I have known them dine on the same Victuals with their Master, and wear as good Cloaths, be allowed a Horse when they had Occasion to go abroad, and a Negro Boy to attend them. Others, who are either flupid or roguish, are indeed hardly used; they are often put into the Stocks, and beat very feverely. Their falt Provisions are weighed out, and they have nothing but what the Law obliges the Master to give. They have likewise another Unhappiness; for, after the Expiration of their four Years, nobody is fond to employ them, and they generally remain in a low abject State, thro' the whole Remainder of their Lives. This ought to warn all who come over in fuch unhappy Circumstances, to beware how they act, and endeavour to behave in such a manner as will most effectually recommend them to the good Graces of their Masters. The great Thing which ruins most of these unfortunate Fellows, is the combining with the Negroes, who tell them many plausible Stories, to engage them to betray their Trust. The Servants Labour is not very hard,

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hard, but is much less than that of the Daylabourers in *Britain*. They who have no Trades, are only imployed in looking after the Negroes at Work, or in overseeing the

boiling of the Sugars.

The Condition of the Blacks is indeed worfe, because their Servitude is perpetual. I shall not now enter upon the Question, whether the Slavery of these unhappy Creatures be agreeable to the Laws of Nature or not; tho' it feems extremely hard, they should be reduced to serve, and toil for the Benefit of others. without the least Advantage to themselves. Happy Britannia! where Slavery is never known, where Liberty and Freedom chears every Misfortune. Here we can boast of no fuch Bleffing; we have at least Ten Slaves to One Freeman. I incline to touch the Hardships, which these poor Creatures suffer, in the tenderest manner, from a particular Regard which I owe to many of their Masters; but I can't conceal their fad Circumstances intirely: The most trivial Error is punished with a terrible Whipping. I have feen fome of them treated in that cruel manner, for no other Reafon, but to fatisfy the brutish Pleasure of an Overseer, who has their Punishment mostly at his Direction. I have feen their Bodies all in a Gore of Blood, the Skin torn off their Backs with the cruel Whip; beaten Pepper, and Salt, rubbed in the Wounds, and a large Stick of Sealing-wax dropped leisurely upon them. It is

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is no wonder, if the horrid Pain of such inhuman Tortures incline them to rebel; at the same time, it must be confessed, they are generally very perverse, which is owing to the many Disadvantages they lie under, and the

bad Example they daily see.

Their Owners fet aside for each a small Parcel of Ground, and allow them the Sundays to manure it: In it they generally plant Maiz, Guiney Corn, Plantains, Yams, Cocoas, Potatoes, &c. This is the Food which supports them, unless fome of them, who are more industrious than others, happen to raise a Stock of Fowls, which they carry to Markets on the Sundays; (which is the only Market-day in Jamaica) and fell for a little Money, with which they purchase Salt-Beef, Fish, or Pork, to make their Oglios or Pepper-pot. 'Tis furprifing to fee the mean Shifts to which these poor Creatures are reduced: You'll fee them daily about Twelve o'Clock, when they turn in from Work, till Two, fcraping the Dunghils at ever Gentleman's Door for Bones, which, if they are so happy as to find, they break extremely small, boil them, and eat the Broth. Most of these Slaves are brought from the Coast of Guiney: When they first arrive, 'tis observed they are fimple and very innocent Creatures; but they soon turn to be roguish enough: And when they come to be whipt, urge the Example of the Whites for an Excuse of their Faults. Their Notions of Religion are very inconfistent, and

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and vary according to the different Countries they come from: But they have a kind of occafional Conformity, and join without Distinction in their folemn Sacrifices and Gambols. They generally believe there are Two Gods, a good and a bad one; the First they call Naskew in the Papaw Language, and the other Timnew: The good God, they tell you, lives in the Clouds; is very kind, and favours Men; 'twas he that taught their Fathers to till the Ground, and to hunt for their Subfistence. God fends Storms, Earthquakes, and all kind of Mischief. They love the one dearly, and fear the other as much. Their Notions are extremely dark; they have no Idea of Heaven, further than the Pleasures of returning to their native Country, whither they believe every Negro goes after Death: This Thought is fo agreeable, that it chears the poor Creatures, and makes the Burden of Life easy, which otherwife would be quite intolerable. They look on Death as a Bleffing: 'Tis indeed furprifing to see with what Courage and Intrepidity some of them will meet their Fate, and be merry in their last Moments; they are quite transported to think their Slavery is near an End, and that they shall revisit their happy native Shores, and see their old Friends and Acquaintance. When a Negro is about to expire, his Fellow-flaves kiss him, wish him a good Journey, and send their hearty Recommendations to their Relations in Guiney. They make no Lamentations,

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but with a great deal of Joy interr his Body, firmly believing he is gone home, and happy.

When any thing about a Plantation is miffing, they have a folemn kind of Oath. which the eldest Negro always administers, and which by them is accounted fo facred. that except they have the express Command of their Master or Overseer, they never set about it, and then they go very folemnly to Work. They range themselves in that Spot of Ground which is appropriated for the Negroes Burying-place, and one of them opens a Grave. He who acts the Priest, takes a little of the Earth, and puts into every one of their Mouths; they fay, that if any has been guilty, their Belly swells, and occasions their Death. Inever faw any Instance of this but one; and it was certainly Fact that a Boy did fwell, and acknowledged the Theft when he was dying: But I am far from thinking there was any Connection betwixt the Cause and the Effect; for a Thousand Accidents might have occasioned it, without accounting for it by that foolish Ceremony.

I have discoursed them about the Immortality of the Soul, and some other important Points; but I found their Notions of these Matters extremely obscure: Yet from the Customs they use at their Burials, I can gather some faint Traces of their Belief in that Article. When one is carried out to his Grave, he is attended with a vast Multitude, who

conduct

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conduct his Corps in something of a ludicrous manner: They fing all the way, and they who bear it on their Shoulders, make a Feint of stopping at every Door they pass, pretending, that if the deceafed Person had received any Injury, the Corps moves towards that House, and that they can't avoid letting it fall to the Ground, when before the Door. When they come to the Grave, which is generally made in some Savannah or Plain, they lay down the Coffin, or whatever the Body happens to be wrapt up in; and if he be one whose Circumstances could allow it, or if he be generally beloved, the Negroes facrifice a Hog, in Honour of him; which they contribute to the Expences of, among themfelves. The Manner of the Sacrifice is this: The nearest Relation kills it, the Intrails are buried, the four Quarters are divided, and a kind of Soup made, which is brought in a Calabash or Gourd, and, after waving it Three times, it is fet down; then the Body is put in the Ground; all the while they are covering it with Earth, the Attendants scream out in a terrible manner, which is not the Effect of Grief, but of Joy; they beat on their wooden Drums, and the Women with their Rattles make a hideous Noise: After the Grave is filled up, they place the Soup which they had prepared at the Head, and a Bottle of Rum at the Feet. In the mean time cool Drink (which is made of the Lignum Vitæ Bark, or what-

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whatever else they can afford) is distributed amongst those who are present; one Half of the Hog is burnt while they are drinking, and the other is left to any Person who pleases to take it; they return to Town, or the Plantation, singing after their manner, and so the Cere-

mony ends.

They have a great many other remarkable Customs, which you may see very curiously described in the Introduction to Sir Hans Sloane's Natural History of Jamaica. Sunday Afternoon the Generality of them dance or wreftle, Men and Women promiscuously together. They have two musical Instruments, like Kettle-Drums, for each Company of Dancers, with which they make a very barbarous Melody. They have other mufical Instruments. as a Bangil, not much unlike our Lute in any thing but the Musick; the Rookaw, which is Two Sticks jagged; and a fenkgoving, which is a way of clapping their Hands on the Mouth of Two Jars: These are all played together, accompanied with Voices, which make a very terrible kind of Harmony.

They are so far superior in Number to the Whites, that one should think it would be unsafe, considering all Circumstances, to live amongst them. The Reasons of the Planters Security are these: The Slaves are brought from several Places in Guiney, which are different from one another in Language, and consequently they can't converse freely; or, it

they

they could, they hate one another fo mortally, that some of them would rather die by the Hands of the English, than join with other Africans in an Attempt to shake off their Yoke. None of them are allowed to touch any Arms, unless by their Master's Command, or go out of the Bounds of the Plantation to which they belong, without a special Permit signed by their Owner or Overseer. They are kept in fuch Awe, that they are afraid even to make the least Thought of Liberty appear. And when they see the Whites muster and exercise, there can be no Terror in the World greater than what they lie under at that time. 'Tis true, the Creolian Negroes are not of this Number: They all speak English, and are so far from fearing a Muster, that they are very familiar with it, and can exercise extremely well.

The Way of trafficking for them, till lately, was by sending Ships with Beads, Pewterjars, Cloth, Hats, Copper-bars, Knives and Toys, to Africa. But now the Trade is by Perpetuano's, Guns, Powder, Flints, Tallow and Spirits. They trade from Sierra Leona to Cape Negro, a vast Territory on the Coasts near 1500 Miles in Length, in which are a great Multitude of petty Kingdoms, where the Kings sell their Subjects and Prisoners of War, some mean Men their Children, and sometimes their Wives.

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Some of them make very good Mechanicks, when they are taught after they come to Jamaica, and such are the Treasure of a Planter: When Mortality seizes them, the Owner is undone, unless he is a monied Man, and can renew his Stock, which must be replenished every Year, or he would soon want Hands for his Work. Almost half of the new imported Negroes die in the Seasoning, nor does the Polygamy, which they use, add much to the Stocking of a Plantation. Every Pickaninny, or Child, is valued at 5 l. and the Commodity in general rises or falls like any other in the Market.

Whatever some credulous People may imagine, with relation to the Negroes Blood, I can assure you, it is equally fair with ours, and I'm surprised to find the contrary so strongly afferted in the Philosophical Transactions. I have seen Twenty of them let Blood in a Morning, and have observed with as great Niceness as lay in my Power; yet never could discern the least Difference betwixt

theirs and the Europeans.

The Slaves are not only subject to the common Diseases incident to white Men, but are likewise troubled with some particular Distempers, which no doubt their coarse way of Living very much occasions. There is a small Insect, which is called the Chegee, that eats into their Flesh, and the Toes of some are laid bare to the very Bone by them.

White People are indeed fometimes troubled with them, especially New-comers, as they are likewise with the Yaws, which is a very terrible Disease, and was first introduced into this Island, by the Negroes from Guiney. a Fly has pitched upon one that is infected, and immediately after rests on a sound Person, they never escape the Disease; they feel its Approaches by a kind of Giddiness in the Head, and a general Disorder: Before it breaks out, the feveral Parts of the Body are felt to contain the ulcerous Matter in little hard Biles. It is a great while before it appears; after it does, no Sight can be more miserable; they are all over one Botch of Sores, which run a stinking, putrid, white Matter, and 'tis long before they can be cured; Two Years is the foonest; and that which they call the Crab-Yaws is never removed. However, these last are not infectious. As foon as ever it is known, that a Negro has the Yaws, he is immediately removed to fome retired Place on the Skirts of the Plantation. and his Physick and Victuals sent to him by one who had been in the same Condition; for fuch will never be infected again.

I. am,

SIR,

Yours, &c.

LET-



LETTER XII.

SIR,



SHALL now proceed to give you some short Account of the most remarkable Trees, Plants, and curious Animals, which this

Island produces.

Sugar grows in a long Stalk, which we call a Cane, full of Joints, Two, Three, Four, or Five Inches afunder, and about Six Feet high, the Sprouts and Leaves at the Top rifing up fo, as may make it near Eight Feet in all. The Body of the Cane is about an Inch Diameter, seldom more. The Colour of the Cane-tops is a pure Grass-green; the Cane itself is yellowish when ripe: 'Tis covered with a thin Skin or Bark, somewhat hard on the Infide, being of a white spongy Substance, full of Juice, which the Servants and others fuck, and eat great Quantities of, without injuring their Health: Nothing is pleasanter than this Sap, when the Cane is ripe; 'tis also very nourishing and wholsome, if taken with Moderation. Their way of eating it is thus: They cut the Skin or Rind off, and put the Pile or spongy Parts into their Mouths, when the Juice will come out more

more freely than Honey out of the Comb; and this Sweetness as far exceeds that of Honey, as a Pippen does a Crab. 'Tis not surfeiting, but the cleanest and best Sweet in the Universe. The Nature of this Juice is much like to that of Apples, but something thicker; 'tis yellow when the Cane is ripe, clean, and without any ill Taste or Hogo, and goes off the Palate as sweetly as it came on. Of this Juice, Sugar, Rum, and Melasses are made.

The Season for planting Sugar-canes, is from August to the Beginning of December sometimes; they don't arrive to Maturity, till they have been a Year and a Quarter, or a

Year and a Half, in the Ground.

Their manner of growing is in Sprouts, Three, Four, or Five, from One Root. They are not all of a Size, either in Bigness or Length; but differ according to the Goodness of the Soil, and the Seasons. Some Canes will not rise above Three Feet high, and others Six; and the Flags or Cane-tops of them exceed Nine Feet, Stalk and all, and sometimes are under Six. These Cane-tops make very good Food for Horses and black Cattle; but the solid Canes are carried to the Mill, for the Uses we shall mention hereafter.

The Manner of planting them is, by digging long Trenches in the Earth, about Six Inches deep, and as many broad, and laying a double Row of Canes along in the Trench

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The next Care of the Planter is to keep the Canes well weeded, Weeds being very apt to grow among them; and formerly the Withes in particular; a kind of Creeper, that runs along the Ground, and fastens to the Canes, by which they hinder their Growth.

The Roots must also be examined, to see if any have failed, that they may be supplied in time with others, lest the Ground should yield something hurtful to the Plant.

If the Witheshould over-run a Plantation, or the Planter should neglect to fill up the Va-

Vacancies of the Roots that failed, by this means the Crop is partly ripe and partly green, and can never be separated, but by much more Labour than they are worth; and the Planter burns the Canes on the Ground: By this means, tho' he loses so much time as they have been a growing, yet he does not lose his Planting; for the Fire does not touch the Root, which shoots out again presently; and it betters the Soil, and destroys the Rats. They do this, by kindling the Fire on the Outsides of the Field, in a Circle quite round the Piece of Ground; the Rats retire from the Borders to the Centre, and the Flames reaching at last to that, consume a Swarm of them together.

These Vermin were brought thither by the English Ships, and will so gnaw and suck the Canes, that they rot after it. In the time of Hurricanes, or a Storm, the Rats sly to the Houses, where they would do as much Mischief, but that they are more easily destroyed

there.

The Practice now is to dung the Canes, which is done either when they are planted, or when they come up, and are Two Feet high, and this is the greatest Trouble and Expence the Planter is at; for if it was not for this Dunging, a third Part of the Negroes would do his Business.

When the Canes are ripe, which is known by their Colour, they are cut up with a Bill,

or other Tool, by one at a time; for they are too big to be mowed with a Scythe, or cut with a Hook: As they cut them, they trim them, chop off the Top, and cut or strip off the Leaves or Flags on the Sides, which are faved for the Uses I have already mentioned.

The Canes thus cut, are bundled up in Faggots, and used to be tied up with the Withes that grew among them, but are now only tied with the Tops of the Canes. Then they are carried to the Mill by Mules, in

Carts, or drawn by Horses.

The Mills that are most in Use here, are Cattle-mills; but lately, some substantial Planters have One or Two Wind-mills, and some Three. The late President Ascough erected One at his Plantation to Windward, which is a very curious Piece of Mechanism.

The Cattle-mills and Wind-mills are made after the same manner as ours in England, and they grind the Canes thus in the Cattle-mills: The Horses and Cattle, being put to their Tackle, go about, and turn by Sweeps the middle Roller; which being cogg'd at the upper End, turn the others about. They all Three turn upon the same Centres, which are of Brass and Steel, going so easily of themselves, that a Man taking hold of One of the Sweeps with his Hands, may turn all the Rollers about; but when the Canes are put in between the Rollers, 'tis a good Draught

Draught for Five Oxen or Horses. A Negrowoman puts in the Canes on one Side, and the Rollers draw them through on the other, where another Negro-woman stands, receives them, and returns them back on the other Side of the middle Roller, which draws the other way.

This Operation presses out the Juice, and the English do no more to the Canes: But the Spaniards have a Press to squeeze out the Remainder of the Liquor, after both the former Grindings. Their Works are small, and they are willing to make the most of

them.

Mr. Ligon, from whom some Part of this Account of the Cattle-mill is taken, speaks more largely of it; but what I have said may give you some Idea of the Machine. The Rollers are of Wood, cased with Iron, and they press out the Juice so thoroughly, that there is no Occasion for a Press to squeeze them; for in an Hour's time, the Sun dries the Canes so much, that they are sit to burn.

Under the Rollers is a hollow Place, into which all the Juice that runs from the Canes is received, and by Pipes of Lead, or Leaden Gutters covered close over, conveyed into a Cistern near the Stairs, leading from the Mill-house into the Boilinghouse.

When Sugar was first planted in this Island, for Six or Seven Years together, One Acre of Canes yielded more than now, without any further planting or dunging; the same Root would shoot forth new Branches, and those be fuller of Sap, than the Canes are at this time; when the Sugar being of so great a Substance, and containing such a Quantity of rich Juices, and the Planters preffing it so often with the same Plant, and never letting it lie still, the Soil is so impoverished, that they are now forced to dung and plant every Year; infomuch that One hundred Acres of Cane require almost double the Number of Hands they did, while the Land retained its natural Vigour, which also then did not only bring forth certain Crops, but fewer Weeds too, the Weeds having been increased by frequent Dunging.

Most of the Sugar Islands, Jamaica especially, have a kind of white chalky Gravel, called Marle, which lies two or three Feet deep, which of itself is of so hot a Temper, and its Heat is so increased by dunging, that their Crops, in all dry Seasons, are sure to fail; and on the other hand, in a wet Year, the Canes grow rank, and never come to

Maturity.

When the Liquor is in the Cistern, it must not remain there above One Day, lest it grow sour: From thence it is conveyed through a Gutter, fixed to the Walls of the Boiling-

house, to the clarifying Copper or Boiler, and there boiled, till all the Filth or gross Matter rising to the Top is skimmed off. This is the largest Copper in the Boiling-house; and as the Liquor is refined, 'tis taken out of the Copper, and carried into the fecond, and fo into a third, fourth, fifth, fixth and seventh. The least is called the Tach, where it boils longest. 'Tis continually kept stirring and boiling, till it comes to a Confiftency; and yet all this Boiling would reduce it only to a thick clammy Substance, without turning it to a Grain, were it not for the Lye or Temper that is thrown into it. This Temper was many Years ago made of the Ashes of Withes, which in the Field was fo destructive to the Cane; but the Temper now used, is made of Lime infused in common Water. When the Sugar begins to rife up with a turbulent ungovernable Fury, occasioned by the Fermentation of the Liquor of the Lime-water, and the vehement Heat of the Fire, to prevent its running over, they throw in a small Piece of Tallow no bigger than a Nut. This presently makes it fall. The Reason of this proceeds from a kind of Antipathy between the Salt-nitral Property of the Juice of the Cane, and the animal Sulphur of the Tallow. From the Boiler the Liquor is emptied into a Cooler, where it remains till it is fit to be potted. These Pots are wide at Top, and taper downwards, where a Hole is left

heft for the Melasses to drain. The hot Liquor would run out, but the Pots are stopped with a Twig till they are set upon the Dripps. In refining the Sugar, the first Degree of Pureness is effected by permitting the Melasses to drain away through the Hole at the Bottom of the Sugar-pots, they being all the time open at the Top. The second Degree is procured by covering the Pots at the Top with Clay; the Reason whereof is, that the Air is hereby kept out from the Sugar, which in the open Pots hardens it before it hath full time to refine by Separation; and therefore, the first requires but One Month to refine, and the other Four.

From the Skimmings and the Melasses of the Sugar the Rum is distilled, which is done thus: They take Four Parts Water, and One Melasses, and mix in the Cisterns; they work it up with large Copper-ladles, twice every Twenty-four Hours; in about Ten Days 'tis stale and ripe, which they know by tasting; then they put it in the Stills, which must be well cleaned and prepared, and run it off in the same manner as they

do common Spirits in Great-Britain.

The Sugar-cane is so profitable a Plant, that I have insisted the longer on the Description and Cultivation of it. The other Commodities which this Island produces are Pimento, Cocoa, Cotton, Indico, Coffee, all which I shall describe very briefly.

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The Trunk of the Pimento-tree is as thick as one's Thigh: It rifes strait above Thirty Feet, is covered with an extraordinay smooth Skin, of a grey Colour; 'tis branched out on every hand, having the End of its Twigs fet with Leaves of several Sizes, the largest being Four or Five Inches long, and Two or Three broad in the Middle, where it is broadest, and whence it decreases in both Extremes, ending in a Point, smooth, thin, shining, without any Incisures, of a deepgreen Colour, and standing upon Inch-long Stalks; when bruifed it is very odoriferous, and in every thing like the Leaves of a Baytree: The Ends of the Twigs are branched into Bunches of Flowers, each Stalk suffaining a Flower bending back, within which Bend are many Stamina of a pale-green Colour; these Flowers have a Branch of crowned Berries, the Crown being made up of Four small Leaves, at first greenish, but when ripe is black, smooth and shining, containing in a moist, green aromatick Pulp, Two large Seeds separated by a Membrane, each of which is a Hemisphere, and both joined make a spherical Seed: it grows in all the hilly Parts of this Island, but chiefly in the North-fide. It flowers in June, July, and August, but sooner or later, according to their Situation and different Seasons for Rain; after it flowers, the Fruit soon ripens; there is no Difficulty in curing the Pimento or Fa-

Jamaica Pepper; they climb the Trees and pull the unripe green Fruit, which done, they expose them to the Sun, till they become of a brown Colour, and then they are fit for the Market. In Smell and Taste they are fomething like Cloves, Juniper-berries, Cinamon, and Pepper, or rather have a peculiar mixt Smell, somewhat akin to all of them, whence it is commonly called Allspice. Dr. Sloane says, They are the best, the most temperate, mild and innocent of Spices, and deserve to come into greater Use, and to be preferred to any of the East-India Commodities of this Kind, almost all of which it far surpasses, by promoting the Digestion, extenuating tough Humours, moderately heating and strengthening the Stomach, expelling Wind, and performing all those friendly Offices to the Bowels, which we expect from Spices.

There are Three Sorts of Cotton-trees: One creeps on the Earth like a Vine, the second is thick like a bushy Dwarf-tree, and the third is as tall as an Oak. The second, after it has produced very beautiful Flowers, is loaded with a Fruit as large as a Walnut, and whose outward Coat is intirely black. This Fruit, when it is fully ripe, opens and discovers a Down extremely white, which is called Cotton; they separate the Seeds from it by a Mill. The Bark is of a brownish Colour, the Leaves small, divided into Three Parts:

Parts: It bears a Flower about the Bigness of a Rose, under which there are Three little green sharp-pointed Leaves, that encompass it round. The Flower consists of Five Leaves, of a bright yellow Colour, that have several purple Streaks towards the Stem, and a yellow Button or Crown, surrounded with Fibres of the same Colour.

The Body of the Cocoa-tree is commonly about Four Inches Diameter, Five Feet in Height, and about Twelve from the Ground to the Top of the Tree. The Cocoa grows in Cods or long Shells, shaped like a Cucumber, each having in it Three, Four, or Five Kernels, about the Bigness of small Chesnuts, which are separated from each other by a very pleasant refreshing white Substance, about the Confistence of the Pulp of a roasted Apple, moderately sharp and sweet. A bearing Tree generally yields from Two to Eight Pounds of Nuts a Year, and each Shell contains from Twenty to Thirty Nuts. Manner of curing them is, to cut them down when ripe, and lay them in a Heap to sweat Three or Four Days in the Cods; after this the Shells are cut, the Nuts taken out and put into a Trough, covered with Plantainleaves, where they sweat again about Sixteen or Twenty Days. The Nuts that are in each Cod, being knit together by certain Fibres, these small Strings are broken, and the Pulp is imbibed and mingled with the Y 3

Substance of the Nut. After this they are put to dry Three or Four Weeks in the Sun, and then they become of a reddish dark Colour. The Cods grow only out of the Body or great Limbs and Boughs; at the same time there are Blossoms, and young and ripe Fruit.

Indico is made of an Herb not unlike our Hemp; when it is cut, they throw it into Pits which they make with Lime: These they fill half full of Water, and then put in the Herb, which they bruise and jumble in the Cistern, till it becomes like a kind of thick Mud: This being done, they let it settle for some Days; and when the Water is clear above, they let it run out: When it is quite drained, they sill Baskets with the Slime, and the Negroes go to Work, and make up the Indico in small little Pieces, slat at the Bottom, and at the Top sharp like an Egg.

Coffee is now very much cultivated here: It is a large Shrub, its Leaves of a dark-green Colour; the Berries grow in large Clusters; One Bush will produce several Pounds. The Bean is inclosed in a fine red scarlet Pulp, which is too luscious to be palatable; however, a great many eat it. When it is ripe, it turns black, and then they gather the Berries, and separate them from the Husk; after this they expose them to the Sun, till they be quite cured, when they are fit for the

Market.

Ginger shoots forth Blades from its Root, in Shape not unlike those of Wheat. When it is ripe, the Roots are dug up and scraped by the Negroes, to clear it of the outward Skin, and kill the Spirit, otherwise it would be always growing. They who have not Hands enough to scrape it, are forced to scald it; but this proves not near so good as the other. It will be as hard as Wood, whereas the scraped Ginger is white and soft; and accordingly scalded Ginger is fold 40 per Cent.

cheaper than scraped.

There are a great many beautiful Trees in Jamaica; the first and fairest is the Cedar; its Leaves are like those of an Ash, and grows to a prodigious Bigness. The Mastich-tree grows to a vast Height: It is a hard Timber: Iron-wood, Bullet-tree and Mastich are generally used for Chariot-wheels and Mill-work. The Mahogany-tree is so well known, that I need not describe it. The wild Cinamon is about Twenty or Thirty Feet high, having many Branches and Twigs hanging downwards, which make a very comely Top. The Bark confifts of Two Parts, one outward, and another inward; the outward is thin, of a whitish-grey Colour, of an aromatick Taste; the inward Bark is much thicker than Cinamon, smooth, and of a whiter Colour, of a much more biting and aromatick Taste, something like that of Cloves, and not glutinous like Cinamon, but dry and Y 4 crumbling

crumbling between the Teeth. Rum loses its loathsome Smell, if mixt with its Bark.

The famous Cabbage-tree, some of which are upwards of 100 Feet high, is nothing else than the Palm; and all that is eaten in the Cabbage, is what sprouted out that Year, and so is tender; if eaten raw, it is as good as any new Almonds, and if boiled, excels the best Cabbage. When the Top is cut off, the Tree dies. The Timber will never rot; and when it is dry, grows so hard, that one can scarce drive a Nail into it.

The Manchineel-tree is very large, its Apple is beautiful to the Eye, agreeable to the Smell, and pleasant to the Taste; but, if eaten, certain Death. The Wood of it, when green, if rubbed against the Hand, will fetch off the Skin, and raise Blisters. When the Negroes cut it down, they are obliged to be very cautious; for if any of the Juice happen to light in their Eyes, they are immediately made blind, and continue fo for several Days, attended with an intolerable Pain. Tamarind-tree is very fine and beautiful, it extends its Boughs so wide, that many Hundreds might repose under its friendly Shade. But I must refer, for a Description of it, to Sir Hans Sloane, as likewise of the Sarsaparilla, Cassia, Venillos, many Kinds of Misletoes, &c.

But it were endless to enumerate the vast Variety of Trees and Plants which grow here,

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and would fill a Volume to describe them; I have therefore only touched upon a few, and refer to Sir Hans Sloane for a particular Account.

That I may give you a View of our remarkable Animals, I shall proceed to acquaint you, that amongst our Fishes, we look upon the Tortoise to be the most curious. They float fleeping in a calm Day, on the Surface of the Water. The Seamen row gently, till they come near them, and either strike them with Irons, or ensnare their Legs with a Rope and running Net, and so catch them. If their Blood be heated, they die; for to maintain Life, it must not be hotter than the Element they live in. They bite much more of the submarine Grafs, than they fwallow; by which means the Sea is sometimes covered with the Grass, where they feed at Bottom. Once in about half an Hour they come up, fetch one Breath like a Sigh, and then fink down again. When they are out of the Water, they breathe somewhat oftener: If they are hurt on Shore, as they lie on their Backs, the Tears will trickle from their Eyes. They may be kept out of Water Twenty Days and more; and yet they will be so fat; as to be fine Meat, provided they get about half a Pint of Salt-water every Day. The Fat about their Guts is yellow, on their Bodies green: The Head being cut off, it dies instantly; and if the Heart is taken out, the Motion continues not long; but

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any Quantity of the Flesh will move, if pricked, many Hours after 'tis cut in Quarters; and the very Joints of the Bones and Shoulders have their Motions, even tho' you prick only the Fat of them; but if you place these Parts in the Sun, they presently die (as the

Legs do) as foon as they are cut off.

Doctor Stubbs relates a real Fact, when he fays, That the Blood of a Tortoise is colder than any Water here; yet is the beating of their Heart as vigorous as that of any Animal, and their Arteries are extremely firm; their Lungs lie in their Belly, their Spleen is triangular, of a firm Flesh, and floridly red: Their Liver is of a dark Green; they have a fort of Teeth. All the Tortoises from the Caribbees to the Bay of Mexico, repair in Summer to the Cayman Islands on this Coast, to lay their Eggs, and to hatch; there they coot for Fourteen Days together; then lay in One Night about 300 Eggs, with White and Yolk, but no Shells. Then they coot again, and lay in the Sand, and so thrice, when the Male is reduced to a kind of Jelly within, and blind, and is so carried home by the Female. Their Fat is green, but not offensive to the Stomach, when made into Broth or stewed. Their Urine looks of a yellowish Green, and is oily after it is eaten.

The Rivers and Bays abound with a vast Variety of fine Fishes; but I must refer the Description of them to another Opportunity.

The

The most terrible Creature here, or perhaps in any Part of the World, is the Alligator, which commonly lies about the Rivers and Ponds: They live upon animal Flesh, after which they hunt greedily; but feldom get Men to devour, because 'tis easy to avoid them; for they cannot stir but in a strait Line, which they do swiftly and forcibly; whereas they turn with Difficulty, and flowly: Some of them are from Fifteen to Twenty Feet long; their Backs are all over scaly and impenetrable, and 'tis hard to wound them any-where, but in the Belly, or in the Eye. They have Four Feet, or Fins, with which they either walk or fwim. 'Tis observable, that, like Fish, they never make a Noise. Their way of hunting is to lie on the Bank of a River, and wait for Beasts that come to drink there, which they seize as soon as within their Reach, and devour: They deceive them the more eafily, because they resemble a long Piece of old dry Wood, or something that's dead. The Mischief these Animals do, is recompensed by their Fat, of which an excellent Ointment is made, good for any Pains or Aches in the Bones or Joints. They have Bags of Musk. stronger and more odorous than that of the East-Indies; the Smell is so great, and so fearching, that 'tis easy by it to discover where they lie, and avoid them, before a Man sees them; even the Cattle, by a kind of natural Instinct, smell them, and run away. They breed

breed like Toads, by Eggs, which they lay in the Sand on the River's Banks; their Eggs are no larger than a Turkey's; they cover them with the Sand, and the Sun-beams hatch them; the Shell is as firm as a Turkey's Egg, and resembles it in Shape; but is not spotted; as soon as their Young come out of the Shell, they take immediately to the Water.

The Alligators are shaped like Lizards, being four-footed; they walk with their Belly at a little Distance from the Ground. Those of full Growth have Teeth like a Mastiff; the Negroes frequently kill them, by preparing a Piece of Iron-wood about Eighteen Inches or Two Feet long, sharp at both Ends; this they take by the Middle, and jump into the River, where they fee the Alligator. The terrible Creature comes immediately on them with open Jaws; they thrust their Hand in his Mouth, and the Alligator biting, fastens his upper and under Jaws on the Points of the Iron-wood; and after he is thus fecured, they kill him at their own Leifure: I have feen them brought alive to Spanish-Town, and (after their Teeth were beat out) baited, as they do a Bull. Ellis, the present Chief Justice, has one of them in his Court-yard strongly chained, and kept in a Pit digged for the Purpose.

Amongst the many Insects, which are such an Inconveniency to this Place, I shall only take Notice of the Chegoes, before spoken of,

which

which getting into any Part of the Body, breed in great Numbers, and thut themselves up in a Bag; when the Negroes seel them sirst, they must be careful to pick them out with a Pin, or the Point of a Penknise, and destroy the Bag intirely, that none of the Brood, which are like Nits, may be lest behind, for tear of giving Rise to a new Generation.

The Fire-flies contract and expand their Light as they fly, and their Light continues some Days after they are dead; they are a kind of Cantharides, looking green in the Day-time, but glowing and shining in the Night, even when they are dead. By a few of them, one may distinctly see to read the smallest Print. I have done it often; the Fly must be held almost close to the Book, and moved from Word to Word; for its Light

does not expand far.

As to Birds, we have a great Variety; but the most samous is the Colibry or Humming-bird, which is admirable for its Beauty, Shape, Smell, and way of Life; 'tis much less than a Wren, yet the most glorious of all Birds; some of them are no bigger than the greater Sort of Flies; the Colours of the Feathers in its Neck and Wing, represent those of the Rainbow. Some of them have such a bright Red under their Necks, that at a Distance one would think it to be a Carbuncle; the Belly and under the Wing are of a fine Yellow, the

the Thighs as green as an Emerald, the Feet and Beak as black as polished Ebony; the Two little Eyes cast a surprising Lustre; the Head is of a Grass-green; the Plumage of the Male is finer than the Female, and on his Head he has a Crown of Feathers, as it were, to distinguish his Superiority; 'tis so strong in its Flight, that it makes a louder Noise by the Agitation of its Wings, than some of the largest Birds; it loves to fly near those who are passing, and surprises them like a little Whirlwind. It lives on the Dews, which it fucks with its Tongue from the Bloffoms. Its Tongue is much larger than its Beak, hollow like a Reed, and about the Bigness of a small Needle; 'tis seldom seen on the Ground. These beautiful Creatures are mostly about the Cotton and Orange-trees, and are very curious in building their little Nefts amongst the Branches. The only way of taking them is by shooting with Sand, which stuns them; when you have it, you cannot keep it; for none can furnish it with its ordinary Food.

There are several other Birds, as the Carrion-crow, the Fregat or Men of War, Boobies, Swallows, extraordinary large Bats, a Variety

of Pigeons, &c.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.



LETTER XIII.

SIR,

have endeavoured to give you as just a Notion of this Island, as possibly I could. I have represented the Facts fairly, and omited nothing which I looked upon as material.

ted nothing which I looked upon as material. I shall conclude my Design with a few Observations on the Trade and true Interests of this Island. It may not be amis likewise to lay down a Method, which (according to Physicians) will most probably, if exactly sollowed, secure the Lives and Health of those who come to settle here.

The chief Trade of this Island is with Great Britain; they deal little with other Nations, except it be in the interloping way. They load yearly upwards of Five hundred Vessels with the Commodities of the Country. Sugar brings not such a Price as it formerly did; and Rum is fallen quite low, occasioned by the late Act of Parliament prohibiting the Retail of that Spirit. The Planters complain

exceedingly of this, and Britain must at last be a Loser, if the Riches of the Colony fail. or the Demand for their Goods be not equal to the Manufacture of them. It were endless to repeat the Advantages which are received from this Colony. Not to mention the ex-traordinary Imposts on the Rum and other Goods, how many Thousands are employed in home Manufacturies, for which there is fuch a great Confumption here! The chief faleable Goods are Osnabrugs, Check-Linen, white Linen, both coarse and fine, Laces, Cambricks, Hats, Shoes, Stockens, Broadcloths, Silks, Platilloes, all Sorts of Ironware, Soap, Candles, Butter, Cheese, salt Beef, Pork, Herrings, dried Cod-fish, Bisket, Beer, Ale, Cyder, &c. all which bring at least Fifty per Cent. to the Importer.

Such a Place as this ought to be encouraged, and that on many Accounts; for it is not only of infinite Advantage to the British Nation in respect of Trade, but likewise of the greatest Importance on every account; its Situation is so advantageous, that with little Pains and Expence, it might be made a Terror to Spain. A few Men of War, and light Sloops, would be able to scour these Coasts, and keep both French and Spaniards in Awe. A wise British Administration will make use of these Advantages, and encourage an Island which it is so much their Interest to im-

prove.

For this Island, of all others, deserves the Notice of Great Britain. Barbadoes is on the Decline; we have daily vast Numbers of People from that Colony, who flock here to better their Fortunes; the same may be said of the Northern Colonies. Indeed Jamaica is a constant Mine, whence Britain draws prodigious Riches: The Five hundred Sail of Ships, which, as I have shew'd, it yearly loads, may be computed (at 150 Tons each) to amount to 57,000 Tons; which cannot be managed by less than 6000 Seamen, nor the Families which subsist in England, by building and fitting out so many Ships, contain less than 12 or 14,000 Souls. The Export of the Island may amount to near 100,000 Hogsheads of Sugar, reckoning every Vessel to carry only 200, by which near 20,000 are maintained at Home, and some of them enriched. The next Produce of these Sugars may be about a Million, computing the Sugars at only 20 s. per Hundred Weight, and a Thoufand Weight to the Hogshead, and the other Commodities will bring 100,000 l. more, all which is returned in Manufactures and Goods from Great Britain; for, except Madera Wine and Rum-punch, they eat, drink, and wear, only the Product of Great Britain; and by this means I may venture to affirm, that 40,000 more Mouths are fed, besides the Numbers that subsist by retailing these Commodities, which may be 10,000 Z in

in all. In short, by a very modest Computation, the Jamaica Trade subsists up-wards of 100,000 People, and on this Island there may be about 40,000 Whites (of which 17,000 are able to carry Arms); therefore, by this means, Jamaica maintains 140,000 People, all Britons; so you may easily guess, of what Importance this Place is to Great Britain, and how much it adds to the Riches of the British Nation, without drawing one Half-penny from it. But besides this, 'tis placed in the very Centre of the Spanish Acquisitions in America: No Vessel can go to. or come from, the Continent, but must necesfarily sail within Sight of Jamaica, or fall into the Hands of our Cruisers, of which, if we had enough, with brave and faithful Commanders, we should not fear a War; and the Benefit they would bring by the Prizes, would foon answer the Inconveniences of a present Expence. Every Fleet that comes from Carthagena, puts into Hispaniola; from whence they cannot fail to the Havannah in Cuba, without passing by one End or the other of Jamaica. The Havannah is the Place of general Rendezvous for the Flota, and the Importance of their Junction there, for their Security, is easy to be imagined; which we could foon hinder, by being Masters of the Seas about Jamaica.

Besides all these Advantages, let me name another, which Britain reaps by this Island;

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and that is, yearly there are exported from it to Great Britain, by a very modest Account, 300,000 Pieces of Eight, which, of how great Service to the Nation, you may easily judge. It is a constant Fair for all sorts of English Goods; for which either ready Cash is given, or Goods taken in Exchange, at the Discretion of the Seller.

The Merchants here generally thrive exceedingly, and I scarce ever knew an Instance of one's being a Bankrupt: Many Persons have made fine Estates from a very small Beginning. Mr. Barclay, a Gentleman of sine Sense and great Parts, was only at first a Factor for a private Gentleman; but in that time so effectually recommended himself, that he soon got a vast Business. He is at present one of the Masters in Chancery, and ranked among the richest Traders in the Island.

Tradesmen are generally employed, very profitably to themselves, especially Copper-smiths, Brick-layers, House-carpenters, Cabinet-makers, Black-smiths, Coopers, &c.

who have all extraordinary Wages.

The general Complaint which is made of the Unhealthiness of this Place, is founded upon a perfect Mistake. If New-comers would preserve a due Regimen, and live temperately, they might be as healthy here as anywhere in the World. It is an Observation, that this warm Climate is the Nourisher of Old-age, and the Destroyer of Youth; and, with-

A New HISTORY, &c. Let. 13. without Doubt, Care must be taken till once a Person be seasoned. The best Method is, to eat or drink nothing that is inflammatory; Sage Tea is reckoned admirably good, because it thins the Blood, and is cooling of its own Nature. One should be careful not to expose himself to the sultry Heat of the Sun in the Day-time, nor to the piercing Dews of the Night. Frequent letting of Blood is much commended, and gentle Doses of Physick. New-comer is apt to break out in ulcerous Biles; these are excellent Symptoms, and the Physicians generally keep them long open. After one has refided a Twelve-Month in the Island, he may venture to take a plentiful Glass, tho' it had better be avoided, because spirituous Liquors heat the Blood, and occasion

Thus I have finished what at first I proposed, with that Exactness and Fidelity, which is incumbent on every one who writes for the Use of others.

Fevers.

I am,

SIR,

Yours, &c.

FINIS.

